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SISTERS IN LAW

Women ready to challenge the judiciary's old boy network, **Page 7**

SPORTS SPECIAL

12 pages of results, reports and analysis, **pages 23-34**

MATTHEW PARRIS

The street-seller whose look of despair still haunts me, **page 16**

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,237 MONDAY APRIL 10 1995 B

Spring resigns as Mayhew aide

New calls for privacy law as MP quits

BY JILL SHERMAN AND ANDREW PIERCE

SENIOR politicians renewed their demands for a privacy law last night as another Conservative MP was brought down by allegations about his sex life.

Richard Spring resigned as parliamentary aide to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, after the *News of the World* disclosed details of an alleged *ménage à trois* with a Sunday school teacher and a businessman at the MP's home. The newspaper also reported in detail indiscreet remarks Mr Spring was said to have made about the Royal Family and Cabinet ministers during a dinner party at his home.

Mr Spring's departure — the eighteenth to rock the Government since 1992 — deals a further blow to the Conservative Party's attempts to shed its "sleazy" image, although senior party sources insisted that Mr Spring's prompt resignation was now par for the course after Mr Major's edict that government members should quit at the first whiff of scandal.

But the newspaper's revelations immediately prompted calls for legal controls to restrain the press. John Townend, chairman of the Tory finance committee said: "The press is getting out of control. This is not a matter of public interest." Other MPs suspected that Mr Spring may have been the victim of entrapment. The newspaper's report was very detailed and there was speculation that Odette Nightingale, the woman involved, may have taped the dinner conversation.

Nevertheless, there was little attempt at senior government level to defend Mr Spring, whose reported remarks about a variety of

Spring: ministers irked by reported remarks

personalities, including Norma Major, have irked ministers. The Northern Ireland Office issued a curt statement saying that Sir Patrick had accepted the resignation of his parliamentary private secretary with regret.

Piers Morgan, the editor of the *News of the World*, defended his paper's story and welcomed Mr Spring's resignation. He refused to comment on suggestions that the paper had paid Ms Nightingale to go to the MP's house with a tape recorder. "I never discuss how we get our stories. Mr Spring and other Tories may think we stitched him up. But I don't think anyone from the *News of the World* told Mr Spring to go into the bedroom with another man and a woman," he said.

When asked how the newspaper was able to report such detailed transcripts of the conversation, he replied: "I don't discuss the mechanics of a story. But she has a vivid and very good recollections."

Mr Spring had met Ms Nightingale only twice before the dinner party, Mr Morgan said. "For an MP to be so indiscreet about parliamentary colleagues, and the Prime Minister and his wife, to a woman he has met only twice before is astonishing. Before Tory MPs bleat about the behaviour of tabloids, they ought to examine their own behaviour."

Mr Townend insisted, however, that the affair proved the need for a privacy law, although he said: "He probably had no alternative but to resign. I don't see that it's right for the press to make these sort of disclosures. It isn't as if it were corruption. Lloyd George was bedding women on the floor of Downing Street when he was Prime Minister during World War One, and he played a significant part in winning the war. What good would it have done anybody if he had resigned?"

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the National Heritage Select Committee, said that the Government ought to respond urgently to the clamour for a privacy law. He said: "Two years ago the select committee published a detailed investigation into the case for a privacy law. We are still waiting. Ministers keep saying the response will come soon. But nothing happens."

The committee's report recommended specific action on secret recording and filming, and last night Michael Fabricant, one of the committee's Conservative members, said: "If it can be shown that Richard Spring was the victim of entrapmment the case for a tightening of pravacy legislation will be overwhelming. If it transpires that the press used people as their agents provacateur the case for privacy legislation will have been reinforced."

Wined and dined, page 2

JONATHON SHAUL/AP

A helicopter flies in to carry out those seriously wounded after the first of two suicide bombings near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip

Gaza suicide bombs kill seven Jews

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL was plunged into a political crisis last night after Islamic extremists in the autonomous Gaza Strip detonated two suicide bombs within miles of each other, killing seven Israelis and leaving 45 wounded, seven of them in critical condition.

Within hours of the two attacks President Weizman repeated has call made in January, after 21 Jews were killed in a suicide bombing, for an immediate halt to peace talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation for a "reassessment" of the situation. The President's original call struck a chord with the public, but was brushed aside by the centre-left Government, which argued that any such move would be playing into the hands of Islamic terrorists determined to sabotage the 1993 peace accord.

Soon after the President issued his latest rallying cry, Israel Radio announced that the Knesset would be recalled from its spring recess on Wednesday to discuss the latest attacks and an earlier call by a senior cabinet minister for Netzarim, one of the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, to be dismantled.

A leading right-winger, Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff and now leader of the hardline Tsomet party, demanded that Israeli troops be sent back in to Gaza to seize Islamic militants who were quick to claim responsibility for yesterday's violence.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, who went to the scene of the worse of the two bombings, summoned a meeting of ministers and security experts in Jerusalem. He pledged, as he has done after similar previous terrorist ourages, that the peace process would not be halted.

The carefully planned attacks occurred as the 19-month old peace process was already in a state of deadlock, with Israeli and PLO negotiators unable to agree a date for the implementation of the second stage. This should involve Israeli redeployment from all Palestinian population centres in the West Bank and the staging of Palestinian elections there.

Both moves should have taken place nine months ago. But even before yesterday's Gaza explosions sent political shock waves through Israel, there was little sign that the recently set revised target date for agreement of July 1 would be met.

The tide turns, page 9

Buenos Aires victory for Hill

BY ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S Damon Hill won the Argentinian Grand Prix in Buenos Aires yesterday, beating Jean Alesi of France by more than seven seconds.

Michael Schumacher, of Germany, the world champion, was third, with his Benetton teammate Johnny Herbert fourth.

In a weekend of major sporting events, a football

Hill: beat Alesi by seven seconds

fan died and another was seriously injured when fighting erupted between rival supporters before the FA Cup semi-final between Crystal Palace and Manchester United at Villa Park yesterday.

The man who died, in a car park brawl, was thought to be a Crystal Palace fan.

The match ended in a 2-2 draw after extra time. In the other semi-final Everton beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 at Elland Road.

Sport, pages 23-34

Mackay rethinks 'no fee' reforms

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has been forced to rethink his controversial proposals for "no win, no fee" litigation in the face of strong criticism from senior judges who say people will suffer as a result of inflated fees.

The proposals put forward by Lord Mackay of Clashfern form a key plank of the Government's 1990 reforms of the legal profession and allow lawyers to take on cases for no charge. If they win their case, however, the lawyers can charge up to double their normal fee.

The scheme, which will apply to personal injury, insolvency and human rights cases, has been hailed by the Government as increasing access to justice.

The regulations have been subject to lengthy negotiations and were finally due to be laid before Parliament last week. However, the strength of opposition from senior legal figures including Lord Steyn, the law lord, and Lords Ackner and Simon of Glaisdale, the retired law lords, means the Lord Chancellor could face a tough fight if the proposals are put before the House of Lords in their present form.

Officials have therefore been forced to rethink the proposals. Lord Steyn, who chairs the committee that advises Lord Mackay on any changes affecting the legal profession, has urged him not to put them before Parliament "without further work".

In a lengthy letter Lord Steyn warned the Lord Chancellor that the proposal to allow lawyers to charge up to twice their normal fee means that litigants could find all their damages swallowed up in increased fees. Lord Steyn's committee says the risk still applies if fees are increased by only 50 per cent.

"The undeniable fact remains that, other factors being

Continued on page 2, col 5

Women encouraged, page 7

Electricity bill rebates doubt

Eastern Group, biggest of the twelve privatised electricity distribution companies under pressure to make big handouts to customers, has taken legal advice and believes that rebates might be illegal, especially if not agreed by shareholders in advance ... **Page 44**

Compensation cases hit NHS

The growth of a "sue for everything" culture in the NHS is threatening the quality of medical care and diverting scarce resources into lawyers' pockets, doctors say ..... **Page 2**

INDEX

Arts	12-13
Births, marriages, deaths	18
Bridge	32
Chess	32
Education	36
Mind and Matter	14
Obituaries	19
Times Two Crossword	44
Weather	22
TV & Radio	42,43

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Single currency delayed to 2003

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN VERSAILLES

EUROPEAN UNION finance ministers delayed the timetable for monetary union at an informal meeting here at the weekend, ensuring that a single European currency will not be introduced until well into the next century.

Germany achieved a broad-based consensus for an effectively brand-new transition phase of at least a year to give Europe time to set up the new central bank in Frankfurt. Such a long interim phase implies that the political decision on who can join the single currency will have to be brought forward to late 1997.

The new timetable will also affect the British Government. If, as expected, Britain holds a general election in mid-1997, the decision about joining the single currency will be among the first tasks for the new Government.

Despite the need to make an early decision, it also became apparent at the meeting that the introduction of new notes and coins is still many years away. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said that "no ordinary citizen will be using the single currency well into the 21st century".

After the beginning of the third stage of European Monetary Union in early 1999, it could take up to four years to mint new coins and print new notes and to allow banks to make the necessary internal technical changes.

That would mean that the single currency would not be available until 2003. In the interim, Europeans would continue using national currencies which would be traded with other currencies within the system at a fixed rate.

Europe bickers, page 11
High-wire act, page 41

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MACMILLAN

Wing section falls off jet landing at Gatwick

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGERS on a Jumbo jet approaching Gatwick Airport watched in horror as a piece of wing was torn off two hours after an engineer flying as a passenger had given the crew a drawing showing that it was loose.

The section of wing flap on the Garuda Indonesia aircraft shuddered on its pinions before being torn free to smash into the rear of the fuselage and then fall 500ft to the ground. Two hours previously, passengers had warned the crew of flight GA 976 from Jakarta that the 20ft by 4ft section of flap was loose as the aircraft took off from Zurich.

The flap was quickly retracted after take-off, so the pilot had no indication that anything was seriously wrong until he extended it to provide additional lift just before landing.

The Boeing 747, with almost 400 passengers, was making its final approach on Saturday when the mid-section of the left flap suddenly broke loose and hit the fuselage, cracking one of the windows. The aluminium panel landed in a field near Newdigate, Surrey, narrowly missing houses and farm buildings.

One passenger, Andrew Hendry, 20, an economics student, said: "We were delayed for three hours at Zurich with a technical problem. When we did take off for Gatwick many people on the left side could clearly see that part of the wing was flapping around. One man — I think he had some aeronautical knowledge — even drew a picture of exactly where it was and gave it to a member of the crew."

When the flap fell off the aircraft was temporarily made unstable, but the pilot rapidly brought it under control and make a safe touchdown.

The Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch immediately began an inquiry. Many flaps have fallen off older Boeing 747s in the past; investigators will call for details of all previous incidents and are likely to demand urgent checks on aircraft.

A Garuda official said: "We are not prepared to comment until we have received a detailed report from the investigators or from the CAA [Civil Aviation Authority]."

Sex claims interrupt MP's jolly in the sun

■ Richard Spring was enjoying the hospitality of the Spanish government when the latest sleaze scandal broke, Andrew Pierce writes

RICHARD SPRING was on an all-expenses-paid fact-finding visit to the Canary Islands when his government career came to an end.

The MP for the safe Tory seat of Bury St Edmunds had arrived on Friday and was being wined and dined with seven other MPs by the Canary Island regional government when the telephone call came through from the *News of the World*. From the comfort of his £100-a-night hotel in Lanzarote, Mr Spring, 48, a divorced father of two, suddenly found himself fighting to save his political career.

The newspaper reported details of an alleged affair with Odette Nightingale, a Sunday school teacher, and Chris Holmes, her businessman lover.

Ms Nightingale, 30, a divorced mother of two, told the newspaper that she and Mr Holmes, 48, a £120,000-a-year executive at the pension company NPI, had dinner at Mr Spring's house in Victoria, London, last Sunday.

Tory sources said Mr Spring's fate was sealed by the newspaper reporting detailed transcripts of graphic and unflattering remarks at the dinner about colleagues, including John and Norma Major, and members of the Royal family.

Mr Spring initially denied the allegations. Asked if Ms Nightingale's story was true, he is reported as saying: "I'm saying, well, I'm just telling you. I just don't know. I don't have an answer. I have no words for it."

Constituency officials in Bury St Edmunds mourned the premature demise of a promising government career, although few Tory MPs expected the South African-educated economist, who became a PPS last October, to progress much further. Mr Spring, a Thatcherite who became an MP in 1992, was given a public endorsement by his constituency party yesterday after an emergency meeting of officers.

Nigel Roman, the local party chairman, said: "He has done the honourable thing by resigning. He has been a gentleman over this."

But Mr Roman refused to accept Mr Spring, who tomorrow flies to Tenerife as part of the trip, could have been so rude about the Prime Minister at his dinner table. "It seems an Englishman's home is no longer his castle. Some of the things attributed to Richard need investigating." The disclosures caused wry amusement in the prosperous rural constituency where Mr Spring, who had an 18,000 majority, is a popular figure, particularly with the large racing community in Newmarket.

Harry Thompson-Jones, chairman of the Newmarket Trainers Federation, thought: "Oh dear, oh dear, poor fellow," when he saw the headline. "All I can say is that he did a good job for us with VAT and Sunday racing."

Mr Spring was married to Janie, daughter of Lord Henniker, 79, a Suffolk landowner. The couple divorced about two years ago. Lord Henniker said: "His resignation is a surprise. It seems very sudden. He is a capable chap." After the divorce he moved into a rented cottage at Risby on the estate of Lady Kay Fisher, who said: "He was very upset when he got divorced but he's an adult and what people do as consenting adults is up to them. It's none of our business. But I must say it's a shock."

Mr Spring, who worked for the Wall Street stockbrokers Merril Lynch before he became an MP, telephoned Sir Patrick Mayhew at home early yesterday to discuss the disclosures. After discussions with Sir Patrick and the Tory whips he decided to tender his resignation. Sir Patrick accepted it with regret.

Spring resigns, page 1

Delays in Scott report may hit reshuffle

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

DELAYS in the publication of the Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair could disrupt John Major's plans for a cabinet reshuffle this summer.

Insiders say that although Lord Justice Scott still officially hopes to publish his report in late June, there is a growing possibility that it may not be ready until after the Parliamentary recess in mid-July. Most observers believe that Mr Major would like to make changes in his front-bench team before Parliament rises for the summer and ministers criticised in the report could be dropped in the reshuffle.

Those thought to be most at risk of losing their jobs as a result of Scott's two-year inquiry are Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, and William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister.

Any delay beyond the middle of July would leave Mr Major with the dilemma of whether to press ahead in July and implement ministerial changes he feels he might be forced to make in the wake of Scott's findings or whether to stay his hand until after the report's publication.

There had been fears in some government circles that if Scott misses the mid-July deadline of MPs disappearing for their summer holidays, publication of his report would have to wait until October when the Commons returns. However, officials working with Lord Justice Scott have made it clear that the report will be published as soon as it is ready, even if this means bringing it out in the dog-days of late July or even August. "It won't be left languishing on a shelf for months," one source said.

Despite the problems this would cause for the timing of a government reshuffle, Tory strategists, who are keen to get as much bad news out of the way as quickly as possible, are at least grateful that the report will not be held back until the autumn's party conference season, delaying still further any prospect of a revival in the Government's fortunes.

The latest delays in the report's publication have been caused by the angry response of those criticised in the report, who have been circulated drafts of paragraphs relating to their role. As a result, Lord Justice Scott has had to consider what has, in effect, ammounted to a considerable weight of fresh evidence.

Officials at the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade are believed to have challenged critical passages in the report. Customs and Excise officials have also submitted objections to the draft passages concerning their role and a number of ministers and ex-ministers are further believed to have engaged Lord Justice Scott in renewed correspondence. However, Scott officials have told the Cabinet Office that they are not prepared to coutenenance further delays by circulating the final report to criticised parties before publication.

Lord Justice Scott: hopes to publish in late June

Thatcher letter 'helped Mark'

Mark Thatcher used a handwritten note from his mother to further his business career in the mid-Eighties, it was claimed yesterday.

The note, under an official picture of Margaret Thatcher, was addressed to Sheik Zayed, ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the United Arab Emirates according to a new book.

***The Mail on Sunday*, which is serialising extracts from *Thatcher's Gold* said that months after Mr Thatcher presented the note, written in November 1980, he helped secure a £300 million Middle East building contract for Cementation International for £3 million in commission.**

Maiden's voyage

A girl aged 8 became the first passenger to board the new cruise liner *Oriana* yesterday. Rachael George, of Muxton, Shropshire, had written to P&O a year ago, asking to be the first guest on the £200 million liner's maiden voyage. She was accompanied by her parents and six-year-old brother and was welcomed on to the ship by its captain, Commodore Ian Gibb.

Fatal tummy tuck

A former beauty queen who saved up to have a cosmetic "tummy tuck" operation after mothering four children, died from complications after the operation.

Ros Zappone, 45, from Lancaster, died at the Transform Partnership private clinic in Bowdon, near Altrincham, Cheshire, which said her death was due to "a recognised post-operative surgical complication".

Prescott denial

John Prescott yesterday vigorously denied reports that a Labour Government would honour any income tax cuts introduced by the Tories before the election. The deputy Labour leader said on GMTV that reports that Tony Blair would not reverse Tory tax cuts had "absolutely no basis whatsoever". He insisted Labour would decide its strategy after the Tories made their proposals.

Owl sighting

The discovery in bushes near Bude, Cornwall, of a scops owl, normally found no nearer than southern Europe, attracted avid birdwatchers from across Britain yesterday. There have been only 20 recorded sightings in Britain and Ireland since the 1950s of the very small owls, which are brownish-grey in colour with short ear tufts. They are common in Mediterranean countries.

Jackpot shared

Three ticket-holders are believed to have shared Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of just over £8 million. Each will receive £2.6 million. A total of 37 players who matched five balls plus the bonus number will receive £67,148 each. Another 760 with five winning numbers will receive £2,043 each, and 62,896 with four numbers will receive £54 each.

Lottery numbers, page 22

Crossword win

The winner of the regional final of The Times Crossword Championship in Glasgow yesterday was Michael Wareham, 55, headmaster of New Park School, St Andrews, who completed the four puzzles in an average time of eight and three quarter minutes. He and second-placed Alistair Fulton, 50, a retired classics teacher, go through to the national final in London on October 1.

Litigious patients 'are threatening NHS medical care'

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

THE growth of a "sue for everything" culture in the NHS is threatening the quality of medical care and diverting scarce resources into lawyers' pockets, doctors say.

Compensation for medical negligence is expected to cost the NHS over £125 million this year and claims worth over £1 billion are in the pipeline. About a third is estimated to go direct to lawyers. Although the £1 million-plus settlements get most publicity the vast majority of claims are for sums below £10,000. Patients who 20 years ago accepted a mistake by the doctor as part of the risks of treatment now reach for a writ.

A typical case, according to Dr John Hickey, commercial director of the Medical Protection Society, the doctors' defence body, involves a missed fracture of the wrist affecting a person who earns their living with their hands. A plumber or pianist who suffers loss of earnings as a result might claim up to £10,000.

Cases where a swab or surgical instrument is left inside a patient requiring a further operation would be settled for £25,000-£50,000. Loss of a leg owing to poor post-operative care could be worth £100,000 or more.

A scheme launched this month by the Health Department, to be run by the Medical Protection Society, is intended to spread the cost of claims by establishing a fund into which NHS trusts pay an annual premium.

Most claims are for under £50,000 and medico-legal experts believe these can be cut by more sensitive handling when things go wrong.

Dr Hickey said: "There is some evidence to show that a solicitor is the last person injured patients turn to. All most want is an explanation of what went wrong. Either they didn't get it or they felt the hospital was covering up and they were driven into the arms of the lawyers.

"Under the Health Department scheme, we will set minimum standards for handling claims to try to stem the rise in costs. There is no evidence medicine is being practised worse now. We are living in a more litigious age."

Claims have doubled in the past four years. They range from 60 to 100 claims per 1,000 doctors but vary widely among specialties. The highest claim rate is against cosmetic surgeons where patients are frequently dissatisfied with the results. The Medical Protection Society's *Casebook* notes: "In cosmetic procedures the scope for dissatisfaction with outcomes is considerable, even where the surgery itself is well performed."

The highest claims are against obstetricians because of the risk of serious damage to the baby when a delivery goes wrong. Fear of litigation has been blamed for the increase in caesareans which have doubled in 15 years.

☐ Lord Howell, the Labour peer, said he had to wait in great discomfort for five hours for a bed at Birmingham's City Hospital for a gall bladder operation. "I don't expect special treatment, but what happened was an absolute disgrace," said the 71-year-old peer who was admitted for his operation on March 29 and released last week.

"I found out that the hospital operates at a bed occupancy of 106 per cent, which is absurd. It makes this kind of thing an inevitable fact."

Surfers swim to the rescue

Surfers Stephen Hudson, left, and Mark Ward swam to the rescue of four adults and a four-year-old boy whose speedboat overturned off Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear, yesterday. Mr Hudson, 29, kept the boy, Mark Mann, from slipping beneath the water by holding him on his surfboard. The group was spotted by a police helicopter, which dropped them a liferaft. They were in the water for about 20 minutes before being rescued by a lifeboat. All were treated and released from hospital. Mr Hudson said he had heard cries from the group while out surfing. "I grabbed my board and some small buoyancy aids and paddled out to them. My first thoughts were for the little boy but the rest of them were getting worried after a while because they began to drift with the current."

Howard to open ID card debate

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE Government is to publish a consultation document outlining options for a voluntary or compulsory national identity card scheme within the next two months. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will unveil a Green Paper detailing the advantages, disadvantages and costs of an initiative that has the strong backing of the Prime Minister.

Whitehall sources said that because of the political sensitivity of introducing identity cards, the document would be "studiously neutral". Ministers remain unsure of the public's reaction to identity cards and are unwilling to risk pushing for a compulsory system.

Mr Howard is believed to favour a compulsory system but the Home Office wants a full debate on the costs and implications, including whether a person would be liable to a fine for not carrying one.

The Home Secretary told the Conservative Party conference last year: "Bank card, driving licence, social security card, kidney donor card, all in one. In time carrying your ID card would seem as natural as carrying a credit card."

Whitehall sources suggested that the most likely option to win the support of ministers would be a voluntary system that after a few years could be made compulsory. There are fierce divisions in the Cabinet over proposals. Mr Howard is believed to favour a compulsory scheme but there are doubts among key figures including Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

The Home Office has estimated that a compulsory scheme could cost £500-£600 million. It would involve a plastic card containing fingerprints, photograph, date of birth, and would cost £100 million annually to update.

Police are in favour of identity cards because they believe they would help to cut crime but the Association of Chief Police Officers opposes a compulsory scheme, fearing it would damage relations with the public.

☐ Mr Howard has been warned for the second year running about alleged lapses in security at a London jail for high-risk prisoners. The Board of Visitors at Wandsworth Prison has written a second letter to him in spite of receiving an assurance last year that security was satisfactory.

Mackay rethinks 'no fee' reforms

Continued from page 1

equal, the higher the uplift, the greater the proportion of damages that will have to be paid to the lawyers, and the more likely it is that the plaintiff will be left with little or nothing." Lord Steyn said.

A second concern is the planned insurance proposals. The Law Society is preparing a scheme under which some clients — but not all — can protect themselves against paying the legal costs of their opponent if they lose.

Lord Steyn says that such a scheme is "of great importance", but that the Law Society had failed to provide the details he had requested. It was not clear whether everyone litigating under the "no win, no fee" arrangements would be able to obtain cover.

Lord Steyn's committee of judges, lawyers and lay people put its concerns to the Lord Chancellor last May, but many of them do not appear to have been met. Similar criticisms have been voiced by senior or retired judges including Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, who has delievered a warning that the proposals would be "disastrous" for litigants and lead to speculative litigation. Lord Donaldson of Lymington, the former Master of the Rolls, has also expressed reservations.

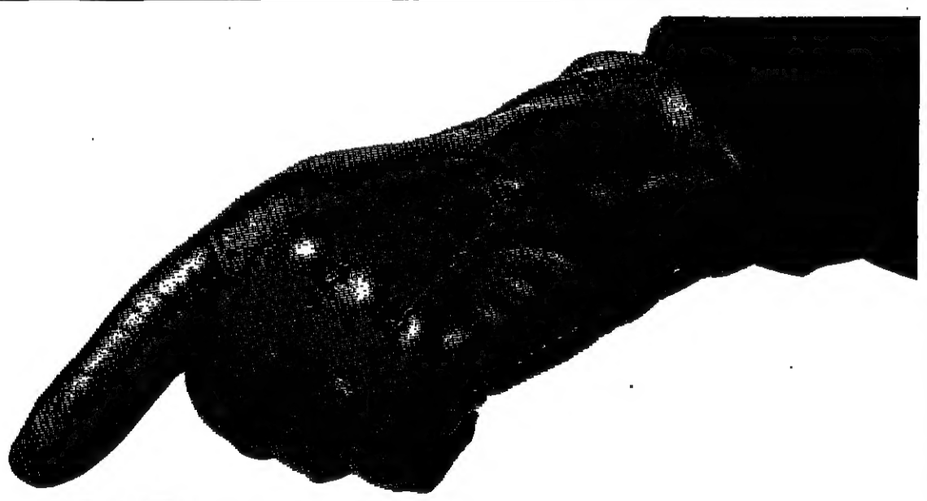
Lord Ackner is expected to lead an onslaught on the regulations in the Lords as soon as they come before Parliament for its approval. In the meantime, Lord Steyn wants the Lord Chancellor to revert to his original plan, which would mean that lawyers could increase their fees by only 20 per cent if they were successful. Lord Mackay changed this to 100 per cent after the Law Society said the increase was insufficient to persuade lawyers to take on the risk of cases for nothing.

Alternatively, the Law Society wants a limit to be imposed on the percentage of fees that can be absorbed by damages. Lord Mackay insists, however, that he has no power to set such a cap under the legislation, the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

Lord Steyn's committee is prepared to impose such a limit in fees in the professional rules of conduct for "no win, no fee" arrangements. Until this is clarified, however, he says that the regulations should be laid before Parliament.

The proposed regulations state that the agreement between solicitor and client must state if any limit is to be placed on fees in relation to the damages recovered, but Lord Steyn says that is inadequate protection for clients. The Law Society is issuing advice to solicitors, urging them to limit the amount they recoup in fees, but it cannot enforce the guidelines.

Women encouraged, page 7



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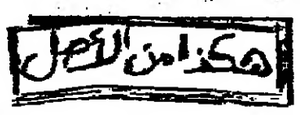


Stable girl was tipped for the top

Promising rider trampled to death by bolting horse

By Tim Jones

THE father of a young rider described as a brilliant horsewoman and tipped to become a top event competitor spoke yesterday of his grief after she was trampled to death by a horse she had known and groomed for two years.

Karen Ellicott, 18, an only child, was killed as the horse panicked and bolted for a door at stables owned by Rodney Powell, a former Badminton winner, as she was fitting it with protective shoes. She was taken from his 20-acre Manor Farm at Bishopstone, Wiltshire, to hospital in Swindon but was certified dead from multiple injuries.

Karen had been marked out as a potential star by Gill Watson, trainer of the British junior showjumping team, and was well known on the local riding circuit. "I noticed her last month when she attended a course at my stables," she said. "She was a really lovely girl. I had thought to myself that I must look out for her as she showed so much promise."

Philip Ellicott said his daughter had been tending a horse she had handled for two years when it kicked her and bolted. "It was a tragic accident. She has always loved horses since she was old enought to see one. She was a sweet and kind girl. We couldn't have had a nicer girl."

Karen and her horse, The Bees Knees III, which was not involved in the incident on Thursday, moved 18 months ago from her family farm at Chilton Trinity, near Bridgwater in Somerset to Manor Farm, where Karen worked as a stable girl. Two weeks ago Karen gained a respectable ninth place at the Ston Easton Horse Trials in Somerset.

A schoolfriend, Emma Bigwood, 18, of Bridgwater, said: "Karen was an absolutely brilliant horsewoman. She was focused and dedicated and showed real skills and promise. It is an absolute tragedy. Karen and I often used to compete in events together and she always seemed to win every show around."

Mr Powell, 32, who won the 1991 Badminton event, bought the farm with the proceeds of the sale of the horse The Irishman II, on which he rode to victory. He was said last night to be totally shattered by Karen's death and did not want to comment.

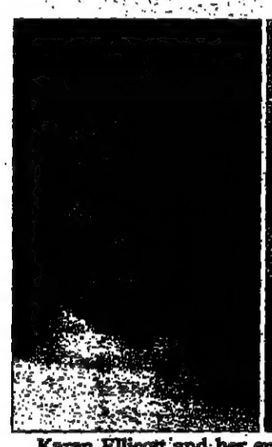
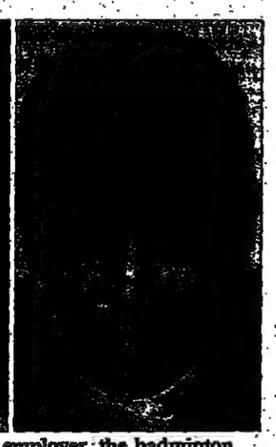
His mother, Christine, said: "He is absolutely devastated and none of us can believe this has happened. We all know the risk of competing in events and are in some way prepared for injury but then this is so hard to take in. She was such a very talented girl and had everything going for her."

Karen's skills were attracting increasing attention within the showjumping world.

Jo Selbourne, a neighbour, said: "It is terrible. Karen was a lovely girl. She was quiet, a very gentle and sweet person. It wasn't her own horse that killed her. It was somebody else's but I don't know whose it was."

Karen's mother, Sally, is well known in the Bridgwater riding circuit and founded the Chilton Trinity horse show, an annual competition for promising young riders.

A woman at Manor Farm yesterday refused to name the owner of the horse involved in the accident. She said: "Rodney is much too shocked to speak at the moment but will say something tomorrow."

Karen Ellicott and her employer, the badminton winner Rodney Powell, said to be shattered

Before and after: WPC Lynn Butler as mother and, half an hour later, as vulnerable grandmother

Officers use old trick to trap muggers

By Stewart Tendler

THE frail old lady struggling with a shopping bag on the streets of Birmingham may look like an easy target for muggers, but any assailant could be under arrest in seconds.

West Midlands police, faced with rising crime, has put two women police officers, disguised with the help of a theatrical make-up artist as pensioners, onto the streets. A third Asian officer is playing the role of an Indian housewife, a favourite target for gold jewellery.

Police are using the decoys in Handsworth sub-division, the scene of rioting in the 1980s. The area covers Lozells, Newtown, Hockley, Perry Barr and Great Barr. Reported cases of robbery and assault with intent to rob rose by 300 per cent to more than 1,000 last year. Thefts from the person have also gone up three-fold.

Mugging victims, have been injured, some seriously, because they try to hang on to their belongings and are dragged to the ground. In January, an 85-year-old woman had her bag snatched in Handsworth in the early afternoon and broke her pelvis, arm and leg after being pulled down.

WPC Lynn Butler, 36, her colleagues, WPC Lynn Dowie, 33, and probationary WPC Rashid Patel, 23, have been told to offer no resistance if attacked. Undercover officers waiting nearby will be ready to move in if the trap is sprung.

WPC Butler's half-hour transformation from mother of two to elderly grandmother is the work of Clare Freeman, Birmingham Repertory Theatre's wig mistress.

WPC Butler said: "I realise I could be in some danger. But the operations are meticulously planned. I know fellow officers are watching me every second and are only yards away if things go wrong. I know the fear many women have of being attacked in the street."

Detective Sergeant Andy Hough, who is co-ordinating the police operation against street crime, said: "The aim is to catch street criminals in the act. But we also hope there will be a deterrent effect."

Clare Freeman puts years on WPC Butler

Murder trail leads police to Spain

By Paul Wilkinson

DETECTIVES trying to identify a woman whose body was found in a remote country lane on Thursday are hoping to trace a widowed teacher thought to be holidaying in Spain.

Friends of Val Tarbitt, a PE teacher in Leeds, alerted police after hearing a description of the murder victim, who was found by farm workers near Middleton-on-the-Wolds, Humberside. She had died from a series of blows to the head, possibly 48 hours earlier, and then been tied in a bedspread and left on the verge.

Humberside police have asked Interpol to check Mrs Tarbitt's Spanish villa, where she and a work colleague are supposed to be spending a two-week holiday. She has not been heard from since leaving her home on April 1 and is not due back until Saturday.

Inspector Mike Cray said yesterday: "We are fairly certain the teacher is not our murder victim, but we are still attempting to make contact with her in Spain so we can be 100 per cent sure."

Neighbours at Boston Spa, near Leeds, also expressed doubt that Mrs Tarbitt was the victim, saying that her hair was grey and not blonde like the dead woman's.

Details of the victim have been circulated to police forces around the country. She weighed eight stone, six pounds and was 5ft 9in tall. Dental checks are also being made. The dead woman was wearing designer-label clothing, including a double-breasted waist-length blue, black and grey tartan jacket, a man's green lambswool sweater, green skirt, black tights and black underwear. She had worn a wedding ring in the past and had gold, pearl-type earrings.

17 arrested at cockfight ring

By Helen Johnstone

SEVENTEEN men were arrested yesterday when police and RSPCA officers raided an illegal cockfighting ring while a fight was in progress. Seven dead birds and a decomposing rottweiller dog were found along with a number of live birds wearing fighting spurs.

The RSPCA said the raid, the second in less than a month, was only the fifth in 50 years. It was believed to have been the result of a tip-off.

Two boys aged 8 and 15 were among those taken away by police after the raid on a shed at a local authority travellers' site at Erith, southeast London. Thirty police officers, including dog handlers and a helicopter, joined RSPCA officers in the operation. Tim Wass, an RSPCA chief inspector, said a fight was in progress when the officers struck at 11.30am yesterday. "Two birds, both in peak condition, were in the pit with sharp metal spurs attached to their feet," he said. "About 40 birds were seized in total. Seven were dead."

He said it was hard to believe that such barbaric activities were still going on. "The sight of birds being ripped to shreds is one that I know will stay with the officers involved for a long time to come," he said. "The success of the operation is largely due to excellent liaison between the RSPCA and police." The arrested men were released on bail last night pending further inquiries. Charges are expected to follow.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the raid was a result of a warrant under the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act although prosecution was being handled by the RSPCA under laws protecting animals and banning cockfighting.

The previous raid, three weeks ago on a wooden shed on allotments in the former mining community of Kelloe, Co Durham, was said by the RSPCA to be the first on a cockfighting den for ten years. Six people were arrested and 14 dead cockerels sent to a vet for detailed examination. Forty live birds were also recovered, together with equipment including spurs, a weighing machine and a board listing birds' names, weights and betting odds.

Mr Wass said that the barbaric blood sport still attracted a regular following despite being outlawed 150 years ago.

The RSPCA, which has set up a special eight-man operations unit, believes cockfighting goes on somewhere every weekend. Ian Green, an inspector attached to the unit, said recently: "It's a nationwide activity and I don't think it will ever be stamped out. You can have all the legislation you like but you've got to enforce it."

Boy may have been abducted

By Helen Johnstone

POLICE have mounted an extensive search for a 12-year-old boy who is thought to have been abducted by a man while he earned pocket money clearing leaves in the car park of a public house.

Detectives in Warrington last night expressed concern for the safety of Christopher Fleming, who was believed to have been snatched by a man seen chatting to him before he disappeared. Christopher had been dropped off at the Bewsey Hall Farm Hotel at Old Hall, near his home in Warrington, by his father on Friday afternoon.

His parents reported him missing early on Saturday morning when he failed to return home. Police have since spoken to his friends and relatives. A school friend told police that he saw Christopher talking to a man outside the pub and had heard mention of a trip to the seaside.

Christopher Fleming

Cheshire Police said: "Christopher's family are very distraught. It is possible that Christopher has gone to the coast. They know of no reason why he should want to leave his family and we are very concerned for his safety."

A member of staff at the hotel said: "Chris had been helping to keep the car park tidy on Friday afternoons for some time. He is a nice young lad. His dad is a customer."

James and Andrea Fleming, Christopher's parents, were too upset to talk about the incident. Cheshire Police are expected to hold a press conference today and are appealing to the public to report any sightings of the boy.

He is described as 5ft tall, slim, with an olive complexion, brown eyes and brown, crew-cut hair. He was wearing a Liverpool Football Club away shirt — yellow with black stripes — with the number 10 and the name Barnes on the back. Police said the man he was seen talking was in his late forties, about 5ft 10in, balding but with greying hair at the sides. He had blue eyes and bushy eyebrows.

Anyone with information should call the police incident room on 01925 652222.

NFT honours a celluloid disaster

By Joe Joseph

WHILE Hollywood may warm only to celebrity and success, Britain is showing that it still has time for the perky underdog by celebrating the much-ridiculed career of the man widely feted as the world's worst film director.

A three-week season of dire movies made by Ed Wood Jnr — whose long, low-budget adventures in Hollywood have just been turned, ironically, into an Oscar-winning film — is to be screened next month by the National Film Theatre in London.

Most film reference books describe Wood, who died in 1978, as inept. Those are the polite critics. Ephraim Katz, the respected author of Macmillan's *Film Encyclopaedia*, says Wood is widely regarded as the worst director of all time. "Producing, writing and directing films with abysmal casts and ludicrously cheap production values, he has paradoxically gained a loyal cult following."

Wood's speciality was B-pictures with turn-off titles and scripts that chimpanzees would be ashamed of. Many of his films starred his Transylvanian friend Bela Lugosi, who grew so eccentric he was buried in a Dracula outfit.

Lugosi was the big-name draw in Wood's film *Plan 9 From Outer Space*: at least he was until he died shortly after filming began. Lugosi's part in front of the camera was taken by Wood's wife's chiropractor — a gallant gesture but the chiropractor bore no resemblance to the creepy Lugosi. *Plan 9 From Outer Space* is frequently cited as the worst film of all time.

Lugosi also starred in *Bride of the Monster*, made in 1953, in which he fights it out with an obvious prop octopus. The advertising slogan ran: "It'll make your skin crawl", though it might have added "and your sides split".

The season includes *Orgy of the Dead*, *Jail Bait*, *Night of the Ghouls*, and *Glen or Glenda*, about a sex change case. Wood was reputedly a transvestite.

Wood's cinematic coffin was sealed when Michael Medved's 1980 Golden Turkey Awards named him as the "worst director of all time". But the NFT, generously trumpeting the director's "individualistic vision and tireless optimism", believes that Wood may have moved into the so-bad-he's-good category.

The scriptwriter Dick Fiddy, who has marshalled the Wood programme for the NFT, said: "This is an ideal time for us to reassess Wood's career and to look at his films in a new light. The renowned wooden acting, wobbly sets, baffling monologues and bizarre plot swerves still provide hilarious moments. But now knowing more about the man and the stories behind the making of the movies there is an unexpected poignancy to the viewings."

Wood's career, if maybe not his reputation, has been revived by Tim Burton, drawn to this Hollywood curiosity by his own taste for tongue-in-cheek Gothic, in his new movie *Ed Wood*. The film stars Patricia Arquette, Bill Murray and Johnny Depp in the title role. Martin Landau won an Oscar for playing Bela Lugosi.

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THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 10 1995

'Gump culture undermines education'

Blunkett condemns invasion of the American dummies

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

BRITAIN is in danger of importing the values of the "dumb-dumb society" from America, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, warned head teachers yesterday.

The success of films like *Dumb and Dumber* and the Oscar-winning *Forrest Gump*, in which a simpleton becomes a national hero, threatened to undo the work of schools, Mr Blunkett told the Secondary Heads Association. An anti-intellectual culture had to be nipped in the bud before it took hold.

Addressing the association's annual conference at Warwick University, Mr Blunkett said: "We haven't reached the stage that the United States appears to be moving into, where being a dummy is something that you get praised for. I think that if films portray it and television and radio pick it up, we are in every danger of undermining the efforts that you are making."

Mr Blunkett said the British tendency to absorb American youth culture placed added responsibilities on cable and satellite television operators. "Perhaps the big challenge is to be able to use the technology and the access to information in a way that is beneficial and that does not end up, as so often at the moment, with kids playing meaningless games."

John Sutton, the association's general secretary, said he saw no immediate threat from American attitudes.

Tom Hanks as Gump: a national hero

However, he welcomed Mr Blunkett's pledge to seek a commitment to a "decade of investment" in education under Labour.

The Shadow Education Secretary told head teachers that he hoped the Government would restore some of this year's cuts in school budgets. "I do not want to inherit a mess with even worse underfunding. I hope we will come in on an upsurge of motivation, feeling that we are going somewhere."

Mr Blunkett warned delegates that funding levels could not be restored immediately. "Retrospective catching up is going to be an almost impossible task. We have to look at how we can recommit ourselves to a decade of investment, a ten-year programme of planned improvement to introduce some stability and security into schools." The association will stress the impact of this year's budget settlement to Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, when she addresses the conference today. Peter Downes, the Secondary Heads Association's president, said many schools did not have the option of increasing the size of classes because classrooms and laboratories could not safely accommodate more pupils.

John Dunford, head teacher of Durham Johnston School, in Durham, said the funding squeeze would lead to more long-term illness among staff as class sizes and teaching hours increased. But he appealed to unions not to react with industrial action. "It would be most unfortunate if, at a time when parents, teachers and governors have worked more closely together than ever, anything was to drive a wedge between them."

SEAN DEMPSEY

Ramiz Hadzimuratovic arriving in Britain with Medina in August 1993

Irma's father fears he may be ordered to leave Britain

By Michael Evans

THE father of Irma Hadzimuratovic, the seven-year-old Bosnian girl who died earlier this month in a London hospital from wounds suffered during the war in the former Yugoslavia, fears he and his remaining daughter may be deported.

The Home Office refused last night to say whether Ramiz Hadzimuratovic would be allowed to stay in the country. He came to Britain with Irma in August 1993 so that she could be given emergency medical treatment after being injured in a mortar attack in Sarajevo, in which her mother, Elvira, died.

Mr Hadzimuratovic, 37, was granted leave to stay in Britain while Irma, paralysed from the neck down, was nursed at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. He has been living in London with his other daughter, Medina, four.

Irma died on April 1 after contracting a blood infection and her father's case is now being reviewed for a possible extension. Although he has relatives in Bosnia, he says he wants to stay in this country.

Mr Hadzimuratovic is seeking an interview with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to discuss his future. A friend was quoted as saying: "He wants to stay in Britain. Medina's first language is now English and he has reconstructed a new life here. The fact that Irma is buried in Britain is also a consideration."

The Home Office declined to comment about an individual case, but an official emphasised that it was government policy not to return nationals from the former Yugoslavia to a war zone.

Irma's case led to a worldwide relief effort to rescue wounded children from Bosnia. About 6,000 nationals from the former Yugoslavia have applied for asylum in Britain and the Home Office is examining their cases. Nearly 2,000 are regarded as being particularly vulnerable.

Muslim advance, page 10

Reforms planned for school sports

By John O'Leary

STATE schools would be required to publish sporting as well as academic information in their annual reports under plans being championed by Iain Sproat, the Sports Minister.

A White Paper expected in June will give substance to the Prime Minister's commitment to boost school sport. A new generation of specialist sport colleges is among the proposals under consideration.

The requirement to publish more information on school sport is seen as a way of bringing parental pressure to bear on schools that have reduced their levels of sporting activity in recent years. Ministers believe that schools will have to compete to attract pupils as comparisons become easier to make.

A recent survey by the Secondary Heads Association and the Sports Council showed that the time given to school sport had slumped over the past eight years. Only a quarter of schools now offer the two hours a week that the White Paper will recommend.

Under the plans being considered by Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, schools would have to detail the achievements of representative teams and qualifications of staff, as well as giving an account of their facilities.

At present, schools are obliged to include examination and attendance statistics in annual reports, as well as outlining a range of policies and giving financial information.

The Education Department, which has reacted to Mr Major's promise to place sport "at the heart of school life" by extending the requirement for team games in the national curriculum, confirmed that new measures were being considered. But a spokesman for the department said there were no plans to include sport in the league table information published by the Government.

Schools results, page 34

Appetite for education diminishes

TEENAGERS' appetite for full-time education and training appears to be waning after several years of growth in staying-on rates, official figures suggest today (John O'Leary writes).

The number of 16-year-olds continuing in education beyond school-leaving age is greater than ever this academic year but the proportion has failed to rise significantly for the first time in a decade.

The 68 per cent in full-time education is 20 per cent higher than five years ago but the rate remains well below the Government's target.

Sioux seek return of sacred shirt

SIOUX tribesmen gathered in Glasgow yesterday seeking the return of one of their most venerated relics which has spent more than a century in a museum in the city.

Negotiations are expected to last several days over a cotton shirt taken from the body of a dead warrior at the Battle of Wounded Knee in 1890. Lakota Sioux Indians say the shirt has huge cultural and emotional significance.

It was a Ghost Shirt worn by followers of the Ghost Dance cult, who believed the shirt and ritual would bring back their native lands and buffalo, and provide immunity to enemy bullets. It arrived in Glasgow in 1891 with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West travelling show, and was given to the city's museums the following year. Since then it has been in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Museum.

Two years ago it was briefly loaned out to another museum in the city where it was seen by John Earl, an American visitor of Cherokee descent. On his return to the United States he told the Wounded Knee Survivors' Association of his discovery. That launched a round of long-distance negotiations, culminating in the talks that began yesterday.

Mark O'Neill, senior history curator for Glasgow museums, said: "It is a very difficult issue for us. It could be seen as a precedent that could open up a lot of our collection to other claims for repatriation. So we have to make sure that this is a unique case, or that it is different from more generalised claims."

Although some Ghost Shirts have survived, Glasgow's is the only one in Britain and the only one reputedly taken from a body at Wounded Knee. The Battle of Wounded Knee is viewed by Indians as a misnomer for a massacre of more than 200 men, women and children by the American 7th Cavalry.

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Anglican evangelicals threaten to defect

Church split by campaign to ordain homosexuals

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to promote the ordination of lesbians and gay men in the Church of England is to be launched next month.

The move could provoke further defections from a Church already divided over women priests. Influential evangelicals are threatening to withhold funds and create a "church within a church" because of what they believe to be an over-liberal stance by bishops on the issue of gay clergy.

At the launch of Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination in the 17th-century Wren church of St James Piccadilly, central London, the movement's two lay Anglican founders, Rachel Carr and Tim Robertson, will demand that gays and lesbians be treated the same as heterosexuals by the Church. They hope to do for gay and lesbians what the Movement for the Ordination of Women did for women priests. The campaign has been launched following the admission of a retired Anglican bishop that he was a homosexual, and after the pressure group OutRage! provoked the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, into confessing he was "ambiguous" about his sexuality.

Higton: clean-up call

In a fund-raising statement, which offers cheap membership to members of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, the leaders of the campaign say the bishop's statement that gay men and lesbians should abstain from sex if they are ordained "forces gay priests and their partners into lies".

They argue: "It denies the godliness of same-sex relationships. The Church needs to hear the voice of Anglicans — lay and ordained, gay and heterosexual — who believe the bishop's policy is hypocritcal and unjust."

Richard Kirker, of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said the new group was linked to the LGCM but had the "specific intention of focusing on one issue and nothing else. They will be campaigning for ordination with an Anglican context only."

The launch of the group is certain to increase pressure on the Church's bishops from both sides of a debate which is becoming increasingly acrimonious. The evangelical pressure group Reform, which asserts the authority and sufficiency of the Bible, has warned it could be prepared to go its own way if bishops give in to pressure to ordain gays.

The Rev Philip Hacking, chairman of Reform, which represents about 1,000 evangelical clergy and laity, warned: "If the bishops liberalise their stance to the extent of authorising practising homosexual clergy, they will divide the Church down the middle. There will be a lot of people, not just members of Reform, who will take that as meaning that they can no longer with integrity remain in the church.

"We are waiting for the bishops to state clearly that they won't go down that road. People campaigning for gay and lesbian ordination believe that now is the time to strike, and that the bishops are willing to consider their proposal. I hope that is not true."

One leading evangelical, the Rev Tony Higton, an Essex rector and founder of Action for Biblical Witness to our Nation, called on the Bishop of London to "clean up" St James Piccadilly before the launch of Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination. In his latest newsletter, he accuses bishops of abandoning their faith by justifying "homosexual practice".

He said last night: "I am not surprised to hear about the launch of this new campaign. We all knew that once the issue of women priests was settled, this would be next on the agenda. We are clearly being sold out by some of our evangelical bishops."

Mr Higton said: "St James Piccadilly hosts all sorts of New Age activities as well. Lots of things go on there which are contrary to the Christian faith. It is about time the Bishop of London cleaned up St James. It seems to be allowed to do whatever it wishes, in flagrant breach of what the Church stands for."

St James Piccadilly, damaged in the Second World War and restored, can hold a congregation of 2,000 and has a font by Grinling Gibbons with the tree of knowledge as the stem.

The Rev Donald Reeves, rector of the church, was not available for comment.

Cathedral is monumental job for the double-glazers

By Lin Jenkins

SALISBURY Cathedral is to have its aged leaded windows double-glazed with the help of high technology and the French. More than 700 years of weathering, pollution and general deterioration has left the coloured glass at risk of gradual disintegration.

The cathedral, often said to be one of the finest medieval buildings in Europe, inspired Constable and Turner.

Pioneering methods to monitor conditions inside the cathedral, which dates from 1258, are being employed to avoid using a system that could further jeopardise the stability of the glass.

Humidity and temperature throughout the magnificent building will be monitored for 18 months. Sensors have been placed in 40 places and will take readings every five minutes. The data collected from the probes will be collated by English Heritage and its French counterpart, Monuments Historiques, in Paris, which has wide experience of protecting windows in its own cathedrals. Part of the equipment includes a telephone system, placed high in the southeast transept by BT, which will transmit the statistics to Paris.

The cathedral, which was conceived by the architect Elias de Derham and took 38 years to build, has been used before as a test-bed for preservation techniques. In 1966 a new central heating system was tried out at Salisbury.

English Heritage said: "The work going on over the next 18 months will test for temperature and humidity levels that the medieval stained glass is exposed to, because the glass is getting very fragile and there needs to be found a way to create a new weather shield which can take the force of the wind and rain. We do not want to introduce something which sets up a micro-climate between the glass and double-glazing, because that will eat the paint."

Ways to fix the double-glazing to the 7ft thick walls without harming restoration work already carried out by craftsmen will also have to be found.

Canterbury, Lincoln and York cathedrals already have a form of iso-thermal glazing, but engineers want to ensure it is fitted to best effect at Salisbury. Preservation efforts at Salisbury Cathedral in recent years have concentrated on the spire.

Photograph, page 22

DAVID WOODFALL
Damaged pavements: demand is stripping bare this Limestone seam at Silverdale

Gardeners blamed for limestone 'desecration'

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE countryside is being plundered of rare and irreplaceable rock to beautify rock gardens, in spite of legislation to prevent the practice.

The limestone of Cumbria, Lancashire and the Yorkshire Dales is prized by gardeners because of its weatherbeaten surface, criss-crossed by channels made by rain. However, less than 2,500 hectares of these limestone pavements remain, and only 3 per cent are still undamaged.

The Wildlife Trusts is to launch a campaign to preserve the pavements before they are all destroyed. "There is so little around, it really does need protecting," Heather Bingley, of the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, said. The campaign aims to alert gardeners to the issue and to seek a change in the law so that permission to quarry limestone can be revoked.

The pavements were created when the rock was laid bare by glaciers 10,000 years ago. Then rain shaped the exposed rock into smoothly-curved boulders, separated by deep channels and crossed by shallower gutters.

The stones look good in rockeries, and have recently featured at the Chelsea Flower Show and a BBC series, *More Front Gardens*. Yet the stone is rare and endangered. "If there was a list for endangered species of the rock world, limestone pavement would be at the top of it, ahead even of the rarest fossils or minerals," Eric Robison, vice-president of the Geologists' Association, said.

Geoff Hamilton, presenter of BBC2's *Gardeners' World*, agrees. "It's nonsense for us gardeners to be prepared to destroy the countryside just to pretty-up our gardens," he said. "And yet we have to accept responsibility for the desecration of the Lake District, which is being stripped of its valuable limestone for use in our rockeries."

Hamilton: gardens plea

Geologists are not certain exactly how the limestone pavements were created, but it involved intense rainfall to dissolve the limestone, and scraping by ice sheets. "There is no way back for limestone pavement once it has been damaged," writes Eric Robinson in *Natural World*, the Wildlife Trusts' magazine. "Regeneration is beyond our capabilities as nature is now operating in quite a different mode."

Most of the pavement is being destroyed perfectly legally, under planning permissions granted decades ago. The 1981 Wildlife and the Countryside Act provided for Limestone Pavement Orders to protect them, but these orders cannot override earlier planning permissions.

At Orton, 15 miles northeast of Kendal, an open area of pavement is being stripped, quite legally. Eden District Council and Cumbria County Council have tried to stop the extraction but to do so would involve paying compensation, which they cannot afford. Similar legal extraction is going on in areas of outstanding natural beauty at Arnside and Silverdale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

There is also some illegal extraction, said Heather Bingley, with 14 reported incidents in the past three years. She is equally worried about pavements in Ireland, exposed to greater pressure as a result of the efforts to protect rock in Britain.

The maximum fine for illegal extraction is £5,000 but the law is difficult to enforce. In a recent case a man was accused of theft rather than breach of the Limestone Pavement Orders and was fined £100, even though the stone is worth up to £120 a ton.

The pavements have created their own unique eco-systems, with tiny trees struggling to grow, bonsai-style, in the channels. Ash, hawthorn, blackthorn and yew may be a century old, but only a few feet high. The pavements also provide a setting for ferns, butterflies and rare orchids such as the lady's slipper, whose extinction in Cumbria is blamed on the removal of the pavements.

Heather Bingley said that gardeners who wanted to support the campaign should never buy water-worn limestone, or that described as Westmoreland or Cumbrian stone, and should complain if they see it being sold or used by local authorities.

Peter Bullard, director of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, said: "The use of this stone should become as unacceptable to the public as wearing leopard-skin coats or ivory jewellery."

Ultimately, Heather Bingley suggests, it is a matter of money. "We have to be able to compensate people who have planning permission to extract limestone. At the moment, there simply isn't the money to do that."

Fewer women having children

A fifth of Britain's young women are not expected to have children. The figures, published today in a Family Policy Studies Centre bulletin, forecast that 20 per cent of women born in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s will remain childless.

If the estimate proves accurate, twice as many women in their twenties and thirties will remain without offspring as women now in their fifties. The *Bulletin* suggests that couples may be deciding they cannot afford children because of the lack of support given to families with children. The cost to women in loss of earnings is also thought to be a factor.

Ramblers' plea

The Ramblers' Association unanimously passed a motion calling on the Queen to allow a public right of way across Windsor Castle land. The association wants the path to become part of the Thames Path National Trail, to be opened next year.

Cyprus trial

The trial of three British soldiers accused of killing a Danish woman in Cyprus may be re-started because one of the judges has been promoted. The men, in prison in Nicosia since September, are said to have fought and may be kept apart.

Climber dead

A climber missing in the Lake District has been found dead. William Welsh, 58, of Fife, is believed to have died in a fall near Haweswater. A climber who died on Cader Idris, Gwynedd, on Friday, has been named as John Loadman, 23, of High Wycombe.

Indecent adverts

The Advertising Standards Authority received more than 1,700 complaints about allegedly indecent adverts last year and upheld 697. The rise over 1993's figure of 1,297 complaints was blamed on people being keener to air their objections.

Gardens reopen

Some 20 acres of partially restored 18th century woodland gardens at Powderham Castle on the River Exe in Devon, which were allowed to run wild after they were abandoned in 1910, were opened to the public for the first time yesterday.

Murder reward

Cheryl Tonze, whose fiancé was jailed last week for murdering her parents, is offering £25,000 for information on the killings. She plans to use her £150,000 inheritance in a campaign to free Jonathan Jones, whom she believes to be innocent.

Chased biker dies

A 30-year-old motorcyclist was killed and his 20-year-old female pillion passenger seriously injured when their Honda hit a kerb while being chased by a police patrol car in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. The Police Complaints Authority will investigate.

Naafi brew

Commemorative packs of Naafi tea are to be sold in supermarkets to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The drink, which was regarded as a lifeline for British troops, is still drunk by the military and their families.

Now mortgages are fixed by phone in just 15 minutes

Interest rates continue to rise and borrowers are locking into highly attractive fixed-rate mortgages with one free telephone call.

There is a mortgage war going on between lenders who are trying to attract new business with ever increasing incentives on offer. And you the customer can make sure you win this war, but you probably need to switch lenders to do this.

With interest rates set to increase the most sensible of the offers available today are fixed rates. These provide real financial security. Most lenders are forecasting standard variable mortgage rates at around 9% by the end of this year. This means that a borrower with a £50,000 interest only mortgage would have to pay out an extra £410 a year compared with a typical variable rate at the start of this year. So if you can fix below this level the savings can potentially be huge. Even bigger if you recall that mortgage rates have averaged around 11% over the last ten years.

So, how do you take advantage of this opportunity without all the hassle you remember from taking out your mortgage? Probably, the easiest way to switch to a great fixed rate is through a free 15 minute call to First Mortgage Securities. FMS is the leading direct mortgage business – at the forefront of a new trend which is set to revolutionise the way people obtain mortgages in the UK. It's already happened in Home and Motor Insurance.

One simple 15 minute call to First Mortgage Securities is all it takes to find out the best mortgage deal for you. Your call is free and a friendly professional consultant will discuss your needs. They can answer any questions you may have and will let you have a decision in principle straight away. Even the paperwork is dealt with over the phone, all you have to do is check and sign it.

Unlike other lenders who claim to deal direct FMS offers a total mortgage service which aims to get you the most competitive mortgage for your needs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

FMS make the whole process of arranging a mortgage as straight forward as possible. There is no branch to visit and FMS will look after the task of instructing a valuer and a solicitor on your behalf. Remortgages can normally be completed within 3 weeks getting you quicker access to a better mortgage.

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The APR is based on a typical example of a repayment loan of £45,000 for a remortgage of £60,000 for a loan term of 25 years with a fixed rate of interest of 7.99% per annum until 1 July 1998 and thereafter at the equivalent variable rate (assumed to be 7.99% per annum). Loan to be repaid after 300 monthly payments of £351.00 gross (£323.38 net of MIRAS on £30,000 at 15%). Total amount payable £105,300. Security over property and a suitable life assurance policy will be required.

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8.50	322.29	499.38	676.46
9.00	341.25	528.75	716.25
9.50	360.21	558.13	756.04
10.00	379.17	587.50	795.83
10.50	398.13	616.88	835.63

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Why spring ends in tears and sneezes

MEDICAL BRIEFING

IF THE Prime Minister's wife is looking red-eyed this week it may not be only because of tears shed in Downing Street for the rejected Scottish Conservative councillors. One in ten people in Norma Major's age group suffers, as she does, from hay fever.

This year the mild winter has resulted in an early spring and a great display of spring flowers, inevitably laiden with pollen capable of causing running eyes and noses, bouts of sneezing and nasal congestion with consequent disturbed sleep and snoring.

Hay fever has a short history. If the Georgians were damp-eyed and runny-nosed the cause was probably not an allergy to pollen or the spores of moulds. There is no written account of hay fever, or of symptoms that might be attributed to it, in the 18th and early 19th century. It was first described as a medical condition in 1819, when it was considered a rarity. Hay fever increased in incidence throughout the 19th century but its cause was identified only in 1873. Over the past hundred years it has become an almost world-wide problem. There was none, for instance, in Japan until 1900. In Britain the number of patients with hay fever continues to grow. In Mrs Major's generation, 10 per cent are affected; in her children's, it is between 20 and 25 per cent, although some of those may outgrow it.

Some patients are allergic to only one type of pollen or fungal spore. Others may react to many different types of pollen, which can be derived from trees and weeds as well as grasses. Over 20 different moulds commonly cause hay fever in Britain.

There are national variations. In northern Europe grass pollen is the most important cause, and hence Steffi Graf, another prominent hay-fever victim, is most troubled by it at the time of the French Open. In Spain, olive pollen causes most difficulties and in Scandinavia it is birch pollen.

Avoiding hay-fever seasons is not an option for most people; the knowledge that the Caribbean should not be visited between October and March, and Florida between April and October is not of great interest to many.

Sufferers may take long-acting anti-histamines such as Clarityn, Hismanal, or Zirtek; those, unlike the older preparations, cause only minimal sleepiness and sedation, and in some cases are free of that side-effect. Alternatively they may use nasal sprays, which cause no sedation and therefore do not interfere with driving, using machinery, or mental concentration. Beconase is probably the best known, but it has the disadvantage, as most do, of having to be used twice a day; the patient takes two sniffs in each nostril night and morning.

A new nasal spray, Flixonase, has recently been introduced. It, like Beconase, is made by Allen & Hanbury, but has advantages over the older preparation. It smells rather better, is more effective and most patients need to use it only once a day.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Lord Chancellor rejects positive discrimination but pledges to dismantle the old boy network

Mackay modernises judicial selection to encourage women

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE advertising of judicial appointments and the introduction of modern selection methods have been announced by the Lord Chancellor. Their purpose is to bring more women on to the bench and tackle criticisms that judges emerge from "the old boy network".

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, addressing "The Woman Lawyer: Benefit or Burden?", a weekend conference in London of 300 lawyers, said he wanted to bring in reforms that created a modern appointments system, "which is open to all who are qualified and wish to put themselves forward".

In particular, the reforms would help to increase the number of women, Lord Mackay said. "I am fully committed to the principle of equality of opportunity for all suitably qualified aspirants to judicial office," he told the conference, organised by the Bar and Law Society and sponsored by *The Times*.

How women are outnumbered by men in judicial appointments (figures at March 1 1994):
Lords of Appeal in Ordinary (law lords): men 12, women 0; Lord Justices of Appeal: 31-1; High Court judges: 88-6; circuit judges: 486-30; recorders: 853-53; assistant recorders: 297-52; district judges: 273-29; deputy district judges: 632-84.

Lord Mackay said his cardinal principle in choosing judges under any procedure was to appoint on merit. "I will not positively discriminate in favour of any groups and I consider it would be wrong to set quotas for the number of women. But I am prepared to take affirmative action to ensure that all applicants or potential applicants are given appropriate encouragements and treated fairly on their merits."

The new process, which has already started for circuit and district bench posts, would be extended to all full and part-time posts below the High Court bench, Lord Mackay said. It would start with advertisements, the sending of job descriptions and selection criteria to applicants, and the holding of interviews by a panel of a judge, official and lay person.

Confidential soundings on candidates would still be taken within the profession. Lord Mackay said he was aware of accusations that such soundings were liable to be biased against women, but that view did "less than justice" to those who were consulted. He also held as an important principle that no one person's views, however eminent, should determine the outcome of his decision in any case.

His reformed selection procedures have already started and the first advertisements for district and circuit bench posts were placed last year.

Lord Mackay said on Saturday that he now wanted to tackle the imbalance between applications and appointment for the post of assistant recorder, the key first step on the judicial ladder.

There were usually significantly more well-qualified candidates than there are vacancies to be filled at almost every level. The number of applications for assistant recorderships received in 1990 was about 100 against 280 in 1993, he said. "There are now approximately 1,100 applications for assistant recordership on the books. I expect to make only approximately 60 appointments this year — just over 5 per cent of those in the pending tray." He wanted now to move to "time-limited" competitions so that candidates would be told the outcome of their applications within a defined time and not have their applications sitting in the pending tray for years.

He pointed out that one of the most significant increases in the numbers of women had taken place at this level. The number of women assistant recorders had risen from 10 per cent at the end of 1992 to 16 per cent at the end of last year.

Cherie Booth, who called for equal treatment, and Anesta Weekes, whose male white counterparts tell her she would be granted silk "because I am black and a woman"

Trials of mixing family and career

CHERIE BOOTH is expected to be appointed Queen's Counsel this Maundy Thursday when the Lord Chancellor announces the 70-plus names who have made it this year to the senior ranks of the legal profession (Frances Gibb writes).

The wife of the Labour leader, a successful barrister, is likely to be one of the few women promoted to the top echelons of the Bar.

The Lord Chancellor deplored the shortage of women seeking appointment as Queen's Counsel. "I remain concerned that few women have yet felt able to apply," he told the conference. "Last year 43 out of 539 applicants were women." However, Lord Mackay said that of those who did apply, women's success rate was far higher than men's. "Twenty-one per cent of women were successful, as against 13.7 per cent of male applicants."

This year, he said, 42 of the 492 applications were from women. According to the Bar, there are 370 women barristers qualified for at least 15 years, at which time they have a reasonable prospect of silk. Ms Booth told the conference that women lawyers did not seek positive discrimination but equal treatment. The issue of positive discrimination was detracting from the real issue and being raised "almost as another means of discriminating against women, an unreasonable demand that women are making".

She said that lawyers were not a stereotype and could develop their careers in many ways. Such flexibility was to be encouraged. "My three children still put demands on me which need to be addressed. I am encouraged by the Lord Chancellor's recognition of that [when he considers women for the bench]. I don't want us to ... have to sacrifice our children for our careers."

QCs

Anesta Weekes said: "I'm frequently reminded by my male white counterparts that I could apply for silk tomorrow and be granted my application because I am black and a woman. This is the greatest insult that anyone could give me."

Candidate calls for action over sex allegation

BY FRANCES GIBB

ALLEGATIONS of sexual harassment within the senior levels of the Law Society were made at the conference by the first woman to stand for the post of president of the society.

Eileen Pembridge, a legal aid solicitor and Law Society council member, said allegations of sexual harassment against Law Society staff and a council member had been reported two years ago to office-holders. In front of an audience of women judges, barristers and solicitors, she demanded to know what action had been taken.

Ms Pembridge took the opportunity to throw down her challenge for the post of president, which she and Martin Mears, another council member, are contesting and forcing to the first open ballot of the profession in 40 years. Rumours of the allegations have been circulating in the Law Society for some time but the timing of Ms Pembridge's disclosure shocked a number of council members.

Although she mentioned no names, it is an open secret among the Law Society staff that the allegations involve a senior member of council. No disciplinary action was taken but the council member was given a warning.

Responding to Ms Pembridge from the platform, Charles Elly, the current Law Society president, said an inquiry had been made at the time and "action was taken". Whenever such allegations were brought to his notice, about which something could be done, it would be done, he said.

Earlier Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, and Peter Goldsmith, QC, the Bar Chairman, called for action to stamp out sexual harassment, which was as serious and pervasive a problem in the legal profession as elsewhere.

Ms Bahl said recent research from Sheffield University had found that three out of four young women barristers saw sexual harassment as a problem and 40 per cent had experienced it personally. "One in four women rated it as a serious problem in the profession," she added.

Landscape & Memory: an evening with Simon Schama

SIMON SCHAMA, author of the award-winning *Citizens* and one of the most imaginative historians writing today, will talk about his latest book *Landscape & Memory* at *The Times*/Dillons lecture on Tuesday, April 11. *Landscape & Memory* is a ground-breaking study of the interflow of ideas between culture and landscape. Schama, described as "the Mozart of history", will show how our environment is affected by the way we think. A series based on the book will be shown on BBC2 in late April. The lecture, chaired by Matthew d'Ancona of *The Times*, will be at the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2, at 7.30pm on April 11. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £5 off the book, are available by ringing 0171-915 6612, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it with your remittance to Dillons, the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London, WC1, where tickets are also on sale.

THE TIMES
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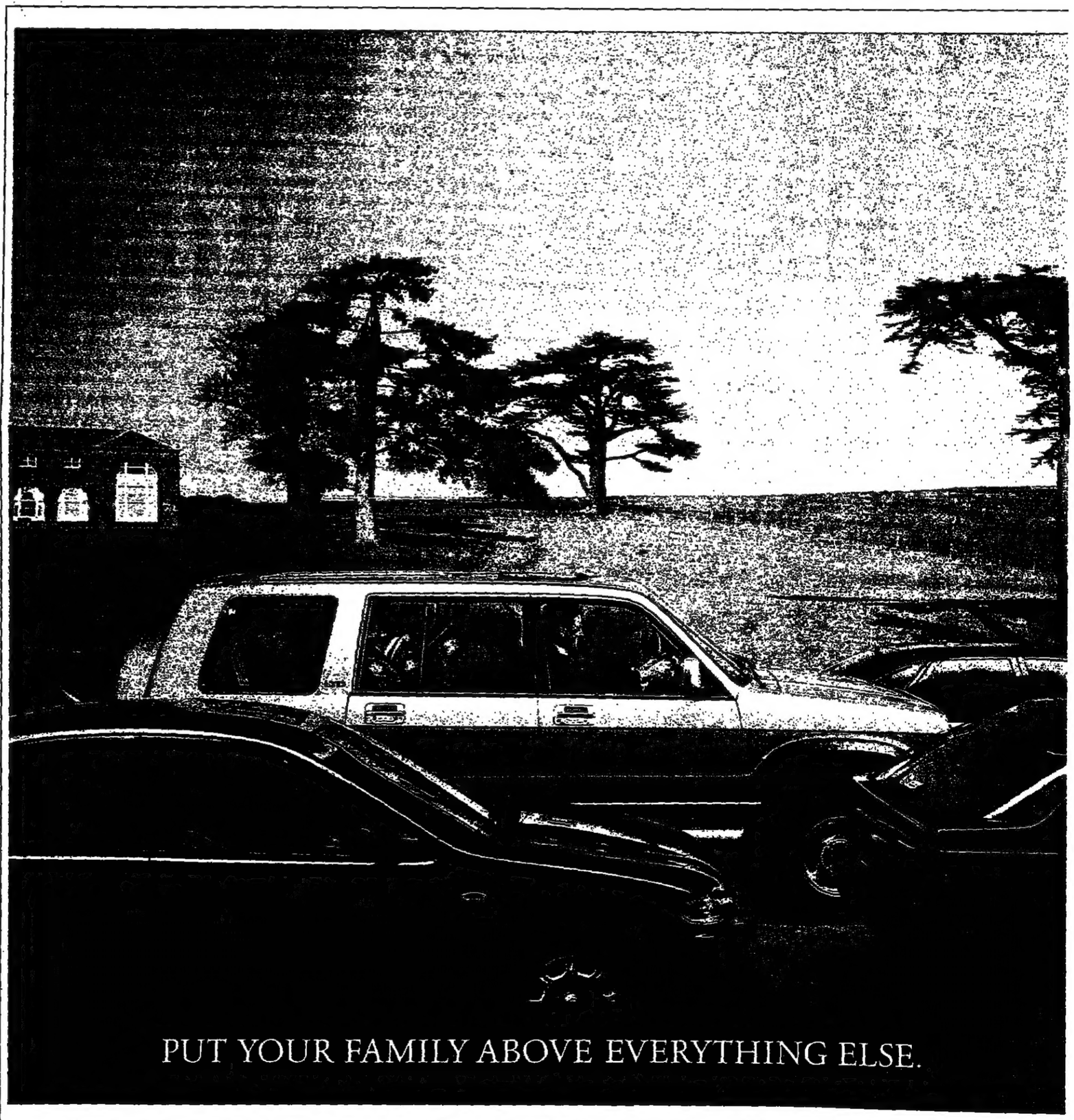

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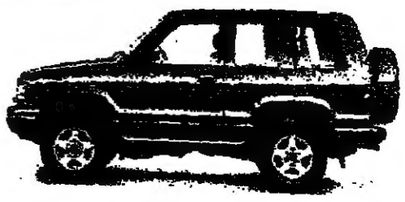

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Important budget announcement

April 13 is D-Day for State incapacity benefit - that's when the changes announced in the 1993 Autumn Budget come into force.

So that ongoing savings of some £2 billion can be made in government expenditure, new medical tests are being introduced which will make it harder to claim State benefit if you are unable to work because of a long term illness or accident. The level of benefits available has been reduced so, even if you do qualify your income may be as little as £52.50 a week. What's more, for the first time ever, most State benefits will be taxable.

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McNamara breaks silence with painful confession

Washington warmonger says conflict in Vietnam was wrong

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT McNAMARA was the archetype of the organisation man, the cold, calculating executive who, as American Defence Secretary, pursued the Vietnam War with such ruthless determination that it became known as "McNamara's War".

Now, in an extraordinarily forthright and painful admission, Mr McNamara blames himself and other top officials of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations for countless errors and ill-founded judgments in a war that America should never have fought.

"We were wrong, terribly wrong, and we owe it to future generations to explain why," he admits in a memoir published this week, breaking more than two decades of silence with his first full discussion of why the Americans failed in Vietnam.

It is, he says, the book he planned never to write but now, at 78, his sense of grief and failure is strong. During a television interview to promote the book, he broke down in tears, a human and emotional side that he kept hidden while hundreds of thousands of Americans and Vietnamese were dying in the war.

To the question of why he has spoken out now, Mr McNamara writes: "There are many reasons; the main one is that I have grown sick at heart witnessing the cynicism and even contempt with which so many people view our political institutions and leaders."

Vietnam, he concedes, is a large reason for the cynicism, along with Watergate and other scandals. He says the time has come for present and future generations of Americans "to understand why we made the mistakes we did and learn from them".

Mr McNamara, former president of Ford Motor, ran the Pentagon from 1961 until 1968 when he left to become president of the World Bank. Earlier Vietnam books by Stanley Karnow and others have recorded Mr McNamara's growing disenchantment, but his memoir, *In Retrospect: the Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam*, adds new details, documents and, above all, his insight as the man managing the war.

America was sucked into the Vietnam quagmire on the premise that its troops would keep the people of South Vietnam from being overrun by Viet Cong guerrillas and Communist North Vietnam. But the South Vietnamese Government was hopelessly corrupt. Its capital, Saigon, fell to triumphant North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces 20 years ago this month, three years after President Nixon had pulled out the last American ground troops.

Mr McNamara says that "we could and should have withdrawn from South Vietnam" in late 1963 around the time of President Kennedy's assassination, when only 78 Americans had been killed. With the advantage of hindsight, Mr McNamara finally answers the perennial question of what Kennedy would have done about Vietnam. "I think it highly probable he would have pulled us out. He would have concluded that the South Vietnamese were incapable of defending themselves" and that it would be unwise to send American combat troops en masse. Kennedy once told him: "We're not going to bungle into war." Yet his successor, Lyndon Johnson, did just that, with Mr McNamara at his elbow.

McNamara: war made America cynical about leaders

Mr McNamara no longer believes in the "domino theory": that the loss of South Vietnam would be followed by the spread of communism over all South-East Asia. He lists this misjudgment and the exaggeration of North Vietnam's geopolitical intentions as among the main causes for America's failure in Vietnam.

His other reasons include viewing the people and leaders of South Vietnam from a Western perspective as thirsting for freedom and democracy; underestimating the power of nationalism to motivate America's enemies; misjudging, "friend and foe alike", through a profound ignorance of the country and its culture; failing to appreciate the limits of American high-tech military equipment; and not drawing Congress and the American people into a frank debate about the war and losing popular support at home.

Mr McNamara chronicles missed peace feelers and numerous occasions when he, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military command in Vietnam should have conducted a rigorous analysis of their strategy for waging a war where the goals kept shifting. He admits that "we, as a government, failed to address the fundamental issues" and overlooked the military, political, financial and ultimately human costs.

Britons protest to Georgia jail over Ingram execution

BY BEN MACINTYRE

PROTESTS from Britain continued to arrive at the administrative offices on Georgia's death row yesterday, where the British-born murderer, Nicholas Ingram, died in the electric chair on Friday night.

After the execution, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, expressed his "deep regret" at the "cruel" way in which Ingram, 31, had been kept on death row for 12 years, while the dead man's English relatives railed against the electrocution as a barbaric method of execution.

A spokesman for the Georgia Department of Corrections said that the execution had prompted "hundreds" of calls and faxes from Britain, some sending messages of goodwill to the Ingram family, others expressing outrage at the execution, and some supporting the death sentence.

In Georgia, however, the reaction could hardly have been more different: local talk-show hosts pumped up the grim party atmosphere that traditionally surrounds such events, complete with rancid humour at the condemned man's expense. A handful of regular death-penalty supporters appeared at the gates of the prison on Friday night to applaud the arrival of the hearse, while an even smaller group held a candlelit vigil.

The fact that Britain was preoccupied with the Ingram case was considered more newsworthy than the execution itself, and even the principal Georgia newspaper, *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, did not feel it necessary to editorialise on the Ingram case or its violent ending.

On his 20th birthday, Ingram was convicted of the murder of J. C. Sawyer during a burglary, and spent the rest of his life on death row. Born in Cambridge in 1963, he retained dual nationality and was the first British citizen to die in the electric chair, but in Georgia he was merely the nineteenth man to die by a judicial process reintroduced in 1976 and supported by the majority of Georgians.

Stafford-Smith: execution was "utterly barbaric"

Ingram remained a "defiant and angry man" to the end, according to witnesses, who said he spat at the prison warder when asked to make a final statement and walked to the electric chair without another word. He slammed back into the chair and his hands clenched with the first 2,000-volt burst of electricity, witnesses said. He was pronounced dead at 9.15pm (2.15am UK time).

Earlier on Friday, the condemned man was said to be "cocky and confident" after a federal court granted another stay of execution, giving his lawyers a further 72 hours to appeal to a higher court. But within three hours the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned that stay and Ingram, described as "quiet and stone-faced", was once again taken to the cell adjoining the execution chamber and his head shaved a second time.

An appeal to the US Supreme Court was turned down just minutes before the scheduled execution time of 9pm. After the execution Clive Stafford-Smith, Ingram's British-born lawyer, gave an emotional statement. In contrast to the remorseless killer depicted by other witnesses, Mr Stafford-Smith said that the condemned man had given him a letter for Mary Sawyer, the wife of Ingram's victim.

Close to tears and condemning the execution as "utterly, utterly barbaric", the lawyer said that Ingram had expressed his "total and utter contempt for this whole system of killing" before going to his death. "He wanted to look forward to another life so he could look out for something better than what had happened in this life, which had been so sad," Mr Stafford-Smith said.

Clinton speaks up for 'angry whites'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

PRESIDENT CLINTON has declared his sympathy for "so-called angry white males" who see themselves as victims of government programmes to help women and ethnic minorities.

On a trip to California to launch his attempt to reclaim the spotlight from Newt Gingrich, the House majority leader, Mr Clinton defended his decision to review "affirmative action" laws, which Republicans have chosen as a key battleground in next year's White House race.

"We don't have to retreat from any of these programmes," he told an audience of Democrats in Sacramento, many of them wearing badges with the message No Retreat on Affirmative Action. "But we do have to ask ourselves, 'Are they all working? Are they fair?'" As his audience began chanting "No retreat, no retreat", he pleaded: "Don't scream. The Republicans want to get this country into a screaming match ... we have to lower our voices.

"This is a psychologically difficult time for a lot of white males," he said. "Most of them are working harder for less money than they were making 15 years ago." Mr Clinton later attended a $25,000-a-head (£15,635) fundraising dinner hosted by Steven Spielberg.

Dole launches third presidential bid

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Dole: "warm, fuzzy and reasonable"

AT THE age of 71, Senator Robert Dole will today launch his third attempt to become President when he formally declares his candidacy in Kansas, his home state. He will be the sixth Republican to seek the party's nomination for next year's poll.

Opinion polls put him in the lead by up to 30 points over his nearest rival, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas. In surveys of party activists, however, Mr Gramm is on top.

For now, though, Mr Dole enjoys greater name recognition with the public after unsuccessful bids for the nomination in 1980 and 1988. He also had a failed run for Vice-President on the ticket with Gerald Ford in 1976.

He is a renowned survivor. Fifty years ago next Friday, as an army lieutenant, he charged a German machine-gun nest in the Po Valley in Italy. He was cut down by bullets that shattered his right shoulder and collar-bone and pierced his spine. He spent nine hours on the battlefield before being evacuated, followed by 39 months of hospital and painful rehabilitation. His arm is permanently withered and he struggles to button his shirt. The episode certainly showed Mr Dole's grit, but to some it also left him embittered and angry. Certainly his earlier campaigns were marked by a crabby, biting tone.

This time around, he says, he is more calm and serene. "I'm the warm, fuzzy reasonable Bob Dole," he says. Perhaps, with practice, he can make it sound convincing.

هكذا من الأصل

Suicide bombings turn Israeli tide against peace pact

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MODERATE Israelis were asking last night how much longer they should wait and how many more Jews should die before the Government took action.

The twin suicide bombings in Gaza yesterday seemed certain to increase political support for the Likud, the main right-wing opposition party, which is now predicted by the opinion polls to sweep back to power in next year's general election.

Likud is committed to freezing the accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and preventing the extension of self-rule to the rest of the occupied West Bank outside Jericho.

Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister and Nobel Peace prizewinner, attempted to stem the tide of political opinion calling for suspension of the talks with the PLO. "We must be very cautious not to take steps that will only serve the terrorists," he said.

The first of yesterday's attacks took place about 200 yards from the settlement of Kfar Darom, one of a number of outposts left behind in the Gaza Strip by the Israelis, which between them house 4,000 Jews but require huge military protection. A van loaded with explosives drove into an Israeli bus carrying soldiers and settlers from the port city of Ashdod and ripped much of the vehicle apart. Michal Sherenbaum, one of the settlers, said she had seen Palestinians near by dancing with joy.

Islamic Jihad said it had carried out the attack and named the suicide bomber. The group said the attack was launched in revenge for the bomb in Gaza a week ago in which seven Arabs, a number of them Islamic activists, were killed. The PLO claimed that it was an accident caused by the bomb makers, but Islamic spokesmen claimed it was the work of Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence agency.

Israeli officials said that six people had died in the bus and 30 of the passengers were wounded. Even as the rescue operation was continuing, another huge blast took place a few miles further north when a second suicide bomber drove into an Israeli army vehicle escorting settlers in their cars. One Israeli was killed instantly and nine people, including two young girls, were injured.

The second attack took place close to Netzarim which Yossi Sarid, the dovish Environment Minister, described last week as "a bone in the throat" which should be spat out because it was causing unnecessary friction between Israelis and Palestinians. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, has repeatedly pledged, despite calls from the Israeli Left, that no settlements will be uprooted at this stage of the peace process.

Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, denounced those responsible for yesterday's attacks as "enemies of peace" and pledged to fight them. Senior members of the Palestinian police have alleged, however, that he is unwilling to give them carte blanche to move against the extremists for fear of provoking a civil war in Gaza. The attacks were an embarrassment to the Palestinian Authority, which has been trying to convince a sceptical Israeli public that it is doing all it can to contain the extremists.

Israeli rightwing critics claim that no Islamic suspects have yet been tried in the security court set up by Mr Arafat, which has been criticised inside Gaza by Palestinians who claim it is following in the undemocratic footsteps of dictatorial Arab regimes such as Iraq and Libya.

Only 24 hours before the two attacks, the Palestinian police announced that they had recently arrested Arab boys as young as ten years old who were being trained to perform suicide missions.

"Those who trained them declared them martyrs by placing the boys in graves and praying over their bodies before sending them to carry out attacks," Tayed Abdel Rahim, the general secretary of the Palestinian Authority, said.

A woman in Lima is confronted by an array of posters for yesterday's election to choose a new President and 120 members of congress. Peruvians queued up at polling booths while opposition candidates claimed that President Fujimori was resorting to fraud to get re-elected (Gabriella Gamini writes). Seven presidential candidates demanded that the election be cancelled after the discovery of rigged ballot boxes in several remote villages in the central jungle region of Pucallpa, and towns in an area around the river, Rio Ucayali. Fourteen members of the national electoral council were arrested, accused of filling in ballot papers in favour of Mr Fujimori.

Opposition cries foul in Peru

who is fighting for another five years in power. Opinion polls suggested that Mr Fujimori would win 42 per cent of the votes from Peru's 12 million electorate while his closest rival, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the former United Nations Secretary-General, was expected to get no more than 27 per cent.

Mugabe paves way for Smith to vote

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

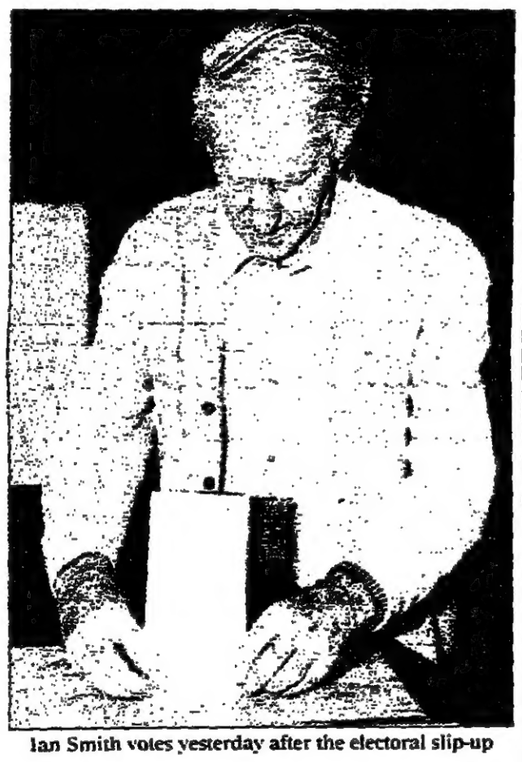
IAN SMITH, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, managed to steal the limelight this weekend by voting in a parliamentary election in which most Zimbabweans appeared to have made clear to President Mugabe their dislike of his rule by staying at home.

Eventually it was only the personal intervention of Mr Mugabe that allowed his old foe to vote. At Mr Smith's first attempt on Saturday at a polling station in a central Harare constituency, he was turned away because officials could not find his name on the voters' roll.

Tobaiwa Mudede, the Registrar-General, said Mr Smith was enrolled at Shurugwi, 110 miles to the south where he ranches, and would have to drive there if he wanted to vote. But in the meantime, Mr Mugabe was told of the omission and responded: "He must vote." A driver was at Mr Smith's front door yesterday morning with a written apology from Mr Mudede asking him to come and vote.

Thousands of other Zimbabweans who also tried to vote did not get preferential treatment. "The voters' roll is a shambles," said Mike Auret, chairman of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, monitoring the poll.

About 45 per cent of the 2.6 million people able to vote had cast their ballots by early afternoon, and the election directorate said it expected a turnout of 50 per cent. The figure surprised observers, who witnessed moderate polling on the first day and deserted polling stations yesterday on the second and last day. It was a far cry from Mr Mugabe's call for a "thunderous 99.9 per cent victory".



Ian Smith votes yesterday after the electoral slip-up

Six die after Inkatha walkout

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SIX people have been murdered and three injured in KwaZulu/Natal within hours of a decision by the Inkatha Freedom Party to suspend its participation in South Africa's constitutional assembly. Inkatha wants an end to the impasse over international mediation on its demands for strong federal powers in the region.

Police said yesterday that three of the victims were attacked in their homes near Margate, in the south of the province, and another man was shot dead in a hostel run by the African National Congress at Umlazi, near Durban. Earlier yesterday, Inkatha said it did not believe its parliamentary walkout would fuel violence.

Inkatha's national council voted on Saturday to suspend immediately involvement in the constitutional assembly and said it would refuse to recognise the final constitution if it was not involved in drafting it.

However, it also supported the proposal by F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, for a new task force consisting of himself, Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, and an independent mediator to ensure that any agreement is honoured.

Chief Buthelezi said that the ANC was determined to draft the country's final constitution on its own.

☐ **Bloemfontein:** Twelve people were killed and 56 were injured in fighting between workers at a goldmine near Bloemfontein yesterday. *(AP)*

WORLD SUMMARY

Claes told to clear his name

Brussels: Willy Claes's hopes of remaining in office as Nato Secretary-General were dealt a serious blow yesterday when a senior German politician told him either to clear his name immediately or to step down (George Brock writes).

The ultimatum came from Karl Lamers, a senior Christian Democrat MP, after Belgian police searched the two homes of Mr Claes, a former minister, as part of a bribery investigation concerning the Brussels Government. Herr Lamers said the inquiry was harming Nato.

Karachi shops and buses burnt

Karachi: Supporters of the Mohajir National Movement set fire to shops and buses in Karachi yesterday to protest over the death of one of its activists. Police said the man was killed in clashes between rival factions of the movement and police on Saturday, when eight people, two of them policemen, were shot dead. A senior member of the movement, who asked not to be named, accused police of having killed the activist in cold blood. *(Reuter)*

Narrow win for Oddsson

Reykjavik: David Oddsson, the conservative Prime Minister of Iceland, scraped through in a cliffhanger general election and began talks on forming a new coalition government yesterday. The centre-right administration of Mr Oddsson, a former playwright, won 32 seats in the 63-member parliament, the Althing. The centre-left opposition took 31. *(Reuter)*

Liechtenstein votes for trade

Vaduz: The tiny alpine principality of Liechtenstein said "yes" to joining the European Economic Area, according to preliminary results of a weekend referendum. Almost 56 per cent of voters favoured joining the free trade bloc which covers the European Union and the European Free Trade Association. *(Reuter)*

Russians fear cult attack on subway

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

THE Japanese religious sect suspected of responsibility for last month's poison gas attack in the Tokyo subway is under close investigation by the Russian security services.

Application forms apparently issued to new members of the Aum Shinrikyo sect by the Russian branch contain questions about the Moscow subway system, raising fears that the cult may have been planning a similar gas attack in the city. In the past ten days, the sect's Russian headquarters in the town of Vladikavkaz and its five Moscow branches have been closed by the police.

Aum Shinriyko claims up to 35,000 followers in Russia. It has contacts with powerful figures in the Russian bureaucracy, including Oleg Lobov, the secretary of the National Security Council. Mr Lobov, who met Shoka Asahara, the cult's leader, last year explained the move by pointing to the charitable help offered by the sect.

There are fears that the material for making the poison gas, sarin, may have come from Russian military stocks. There has been no firm evidence, and the claim has been denied by the Russian military.

Application forms allegedly belonging to Aum Shinriyko have been acquired by the Committee on Religion of the Duma, the Russian parliament, and by the *Moscow Times*. After a space for the applicant's name and basic information, the form becomes a questionnaire. One of the questions is: "Which metro or train station do you most frequently use?" Another section asks applicants to specify their jobs and qualifications and lists alternatives beginning with physics, chemistry and biology.

"If this is really authentic, then it obviously worries us," said Valentina Mishina, one of the Duma deputies. "Why does a religious organisation need to ask questions like these?"

Ludmilla Baitsayeva, one of the cult's representatives in Vladikavkaz, said last week that she had seen the application form. She said the question about the subway had probably been asked "because they want to know how easy it would be for the applicant to attend seminars and meetings in Moscow."

The Russian Justice Ministry said it believed that the application form was genuine, and it was worried about the implications.

TV star wins in Tokyo

Tokyo: A television personality and a comedian won the governorships of Tokyo and Osaka yesterday, dealing a blow to the coalition camp of Tomiichi Murayama, the Socialist Prime Minister.

In Tokyo, Yukio Aoshima, a writer and television personality, beat seven candidates, including Noburo Ishihara who was backed by the coalition, while in Osaka, Nick Yokoyama, a comedian, defeated four candidates.

Analysts said the results might force the parties to review strategies before the July elections to the upper house of parliament. *(AFP)*

Hutu refugees train to invade Rwanda

FROM SAM KILEY IN MSHURA HILLS CAMP, WESTERN TANZANIA

THE Hutus responsible for much of the genocide in Rwanda ignored the mass mourning at the weekend, which marked the first anniversary of the massacre, and instead concentrated on how to go home.

The peasants, drawn into killing Tutsis by Hutu intellectuals and government administrators, mulled over their options but, according to aid workers, Western security analysts and the United Nations, at least 10,000 militiamen have been training in the Ngara region of Tanzania to retake Rwanda by force. Tens of thousands more are also making ready in Zaire's refugee camps.

"Many have crossed into Rwanda to destabilise the country. They say that when the word comes this will be followed by simultaneous attacks from refugee camps in Zaire," a Hutu refugee in Mshura Hills camp, near Ngara, said.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and foreign aid workers provide medical aid, water, and feed more than 400,000 refugees in this area and another 350,000 further north.

Yesterday was just another day in Mshura camp. The refugees held church services to mourn the death of President Habyarimana who was killed in a plane crash a year ago last Thursday, but there was no remembrance service for the victims of the genocide. Jean-Baptiste Uniragiye, 37, said: "I saw some dead Tutsis, but I don't know who killed them ... We will fight our way home if we have to, if the Government refuses to negotiate with us." The coalition administration in the capital, Kigali, has refused to talk to the former regime, which it describes as a "clique of murderers".

Many aid workers have become reluctant to continue their efforts in the absence of attempts to arrest those who organised the genocide of a million Rwandans. Some of the known killers now work for the humanitarian agencies or have established control over the refugee populations of ordinary Hutus.

As the Hutu farmers abandon hopes of going home, the vast rows of tents are being replaced with mud huts. The peasants, who remain in fear after reports from their leaders that they would be killed by the new Tutsi-dominated regime in Rwanda, are creating a permanent home, thereby establishing what has become Tanzania's second-largest city after Dar es Salaam.

Fears of renewed fighting dampen hope in Bosnia

BY JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WARNINGS yesterday of a new eruption of fighting across Bosnia-Herzegovina dampened hopes of any new diplomatic breakthrough, as the current ceasefire continued to be violated by Serb and government forces.

In Sarajevo, United Nations peacekeepers went on high alert at the airport after an American transport plane was hit by ten small-arms rounds. The hydraulic system was damaged and the cockpit windscreen was hit but there were no injuries. UN officials blamed the shooting on the Bosnian Serbs.

Richard Holbrooke, the American Assistant Secretary of State, said in Athens at the weekend that the situation in Bosnia looked bleak. "We are concerned that we are slipping over the abyss," he said. The UN reported nine large explosions, believed to be mortar blasts, in the city centre late on Saturday night. As Bosnian government forces celebrated the seizure of the strategic Vlasic mountain in central Bosnia, officials from the five-nation Contact Group prepared to leave for a visit this week to Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb, to apply more pressure for a diplomatic end to the war.

The officials from America, Russia, Britain, France and Germany are expected to focus their efforts on persuading President Milosevic of Serbia to recognise Croatia and Bosnia in exchange for an easing of sanctions. Mr Milosevic has said he wants a total lifting of sanctions before conceding to the Contact Group's demands.

Brigadier-General Jovan Diviak, of the Bosnian government army, predicted that the current ceasefire, due to end on April 30, would be extended by two months to give further time for the Contact Group to put pressure on Mr Milosevic. The hope is that recognition would further isolate the Bosnian Serbs and force them into accepting the Contact Group plan for Bosnia, which would give the Serbs 49 per cent of the territory, and the Muslim-Croat federation 51 per cent. However, President Izetbegovic of Bosnia said last week that an extension of the truce was unlikely.

All the signs are that the Bosnian Serbs are preparing a new offensive against government troops in revenge for recent successes by the Muslims. The Bosnian army has made a number of strategic gains in the past two weeks. State-run television showed footage of well-equipped government troops, backed by heavy weaponry, securing Mount Vlasic.

Jovan Zemitica, adviser to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said: "Our strategy is very clear, given that the Muslims do not seem to be interested in a political settlement to this war, but are pursuing a military one. We are going to be talking the same language, only we are going to be talking much louder than they are."

As part of the new war preparations, the Serbs launched a shell into the centre of Sarajevo yesterday. Eight shells landed in residential parts of the city. A Nato ultimatum in February 1994 threatened to destroy any heavy gun firing on Sarajevo. A UN source said: "Clearly the international pressures have changed in the past year. The pressures that were there from America and Nato a year ago are no longer in evidence." He said General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, might be testing how far he could go with shelling "safe areas" and killing civilians.

The war in Bosnia, as well as the Chechen uprising against Russia, are likely to dominate a meeting in Luxembourg today between European Union foreign ministers and their counterparts from six Central and Eastern European countries to discuss the political shape of the Continent as it moves into the next century.

Diplomats say they do not expect any initiatives on the two issues that have haunted European diplomacy for months. However, President Tudjman of Croatia may be rewarded for having backed down on a decision not to renew the mandate of UN peacekeepers on his territory. EU ministers are likely to give the European Commission authority to begin negotiations on lucrative co-operation accords with Croatia.

The former communist countries of Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic are keen to consolidate their break with Moscow and anchor democratic and political reforms with swift EU membership. Negotiations on full membership will not begin until after the end of a fundamental review of the Union's treaties which begins next year. The states hoping to join the EU will be coaxed and financially helped to bring their economies more into line with those of existing members.

Diplomats said that an interim EU trade accord with Russia, frozen over human rights abuses during Moscow's attempts to suppress the revolt in Chechenia, was likely to remain blocked.

Three Catholic boys sprint ahead of other communicants from a church on "Snipers' Alley" in Sarajevo after Palm Sunday Mass

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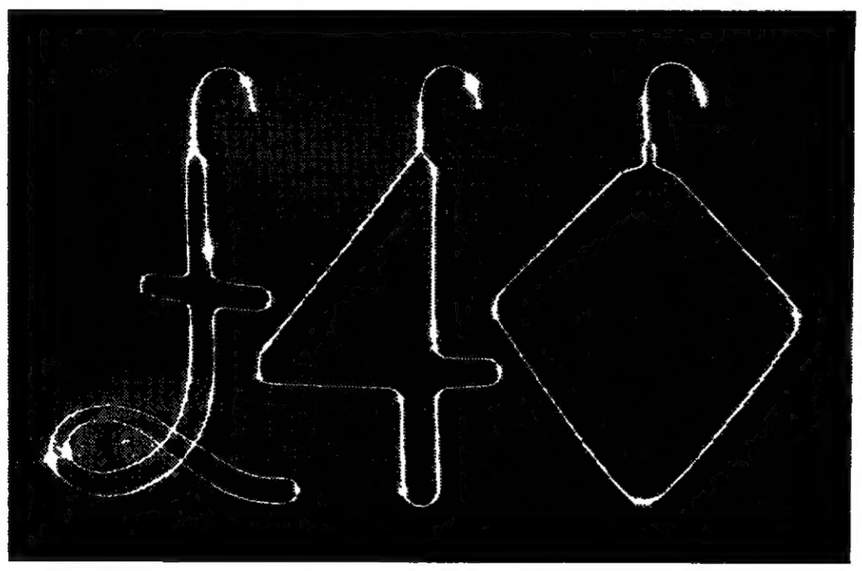

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Russians killed in Tajik attacks

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS received a brutal reminder at the weekend that Chechenia is not the only war in which their soldiers are involved when 23 Russian and CIS border guards were killed in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan.

The Russian forces were attacked by opposition Tajik fighters based in neighbouring Afghanistan. Clashes were reported to be continuing.

The Russian-backed Tajik Government yesterday asked the United Nations and the Russian-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States for help in defending its borders.

Moscow last week hosted the fourth round of peace talks between the Tajik Government and the opposition, based on Islamist and tribal forces, which fled to Afghanistan after it was defeated in the Tajik civil war of 1992.

The talks have made little progress. A truce has, in theory, been in place between the Government and the opposition "Islamic Movement of Tajikistan" since last September, but the opposition leaders are unable to control many of the disparate groups of fighters. The Tajik Government, too, is split into rival factions.

Most of the Russians were killed on Friday, when a military column near the border village of Poshkharv was ambushed. The opposition fighters then opened fire on a relief force of troops from the Kazakh battalion. The Kazakh soldiers were stationed in Tajikistan with small forces from Kirghizia and Uzbekistan as part of a CIS agreement to protect the Tajik frontier.

Lieutenant-General Anatoli Chechmulin, commanding the border troops in Tajikistan, suggested that the opposition's aim is to seize control of the Tajik autonomous mountain republic of Badakhshan, from where they can try to conquer the rest of Tajikistan.

Russia fears that the fall of Tajikistan could produce a domino effect, ending with a loss of Russian influence over Central Asia.

☐ Moscow: Russian forces captured the town of Samashki, one of the last separatist strongholds in rebel Chechenia, after shelling it heavily for two days. *(Reuter)*

£5.6bn bid by Spain to defeat drought

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

LUIS ATIENZA, the Spanish Agriculture Minister, has announced he is preparing to implement a drastic £5.6 billion, 20-year plan to improve Spain's water supply. Four years of drought have left half the country with critical shortages, and the minority Socialist Government hopes that the European Union will help to subsidise the scheme.

A massive water redistribution programme would involve diverting water from the Ebro, Duero, and Tajo to rivers supplying reservoirs in the dry areas. If there is no significant rainfall between now and the end of the year, more than six million Spaniards and 2.5 million tourists will be without piped water, the Ministry of Public Works said recently.

At present, two million people in the south are having to cope with severe water rationing. Three million acres of agricultural land in Andalucia have become barren with reservoirs filled on average to only 12 per cent capacity. The regional government estimates last year's crop losses at £470 million. Farmers with camels protested at the Agriculture Ministry in Madrid last week, demanding compensation and action.

Worst hit is the Costa del Sol, where water is being cut for up to 16 hours a day in the resorts of Fuengirola, Marbella and Estepona, with severe restrictions in Málaga and Granada. Majorca yesterday started a three-year, £18 million emergency plan to bring tankers of water to Palma from the Ebro estuary.

José Borrell, the Minister of Public Works, says that Spain's dam and irrigation systems need to be rebuilt. Nearly a third of the water ducts are more than 200 years old. Up to 40 per cent of the supply is lost through leaks.

West to press Turks on Iraq withdrawal

BY MICHAEL EVANS

RENEWED American and European efforts will be launched this week to persuade Turkey to remove its invasion forces from northern Iraq. Strobe Talbott, the American Deputy Secretary of State, flies into Ankara today for a three-day visit as Turkey's allies express growing unease over the continued operation by Turkish troops against Kurdish rebels.

Turkey wants Washington to put pressure on Syria to halt its support for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), whose leader, Abdullah Ocalan, lives in Damascus. However, Mr Talbott and foreign ministers from the European Union foreign affairs council, which meets this week, are expected to increase the pressure on Ankara to set a deadline for a pullout.

Over the weekend, Ankara announced the withdrawal of more than 3,000 soldiers from the 35,000 sent across the border last month. Fighting intensified yesterday between Turkish soldiers and PKK rebels in northern Iraq. Thirty PKK rebels were killed in one of the biggest confrontations since the Turkish military operation began.

هكذا من الأصل

Protesters gather to save Portuguese cave paintings

By Edward Owen

PROTESTERS seeking to stop the construction of a huge dam, which will flood a valley containing hundreds of Stone Age etchings, will converge on a remote town in northeastern Portugal today.

The ancient art works were discovered in November, but the Government refused to halt the project even though Unesco called for an international study of Europe's finest collection of Stone Age engravings.

Since the discovery of the etchings, a movement to save them has grown among schoolchildren and students, especially at the University of Oporto, at the mouth of the Douro. The Côa, which is a tributary, is the river to be dammed. Youngsters have been selling T-shirts and port relabelled "Palaeolithic wine" to help to raise funds for this week's demonstration.

"The Government wants to carry out a cultural holocaust," Mila Simões, an expert on Stone Age rock art, said. "International support is fundamental to save the etchings as the fight gets tougher. So far the Government and the electricity company [EDP] have refused to stop the construction of the dam but we get the feeling that they might reconsider if funds were to be offered, perhaps from the European Union."

She said she was delighted with support from the British Council which has promised to send three British archaeologists to Portugal to help the campaign against the dam.

So far £110 million has been spent on the £236 million dam, which would have a lifespan of 100 years and guard against Spain's increased demand on the Douro river. It will also help to produce electricity.

President Soares, a Socialist, is known to be firmly against the dam and he has, on at least three occasions, told Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Social Democrat (PSD) Prime Minister, to halt the project. It seems the dam will become an issue in the general election due this October. Students have threatened a sit-in to stop work on the dam and 500 construction workers have retaliated by saying they will take their pickaxes to the etchings of oxen, goats and ponies.

Antonio Gouveia, 50, the PSD Mayor of Vila Nova de Foz Côa, who favours the proposed dam for the industry he claims it will bring, has said that "Unesco's policy is that cultural interests can be overridden where economic requirements ... are more important". A Unesco spokeswoman has denied this.

Vitor Chiveira Jorge, professor of archaeology at the University of Oporto, says that "to stop the work in process would be an act of courage". He admits, however, that "it has not been proved that flooding the site will damage the engravings. Some voices claim they would be better preserved underwater." Some of the shale rocks have been carved with graffiti recently and some engravings re-outlined for tourists' cameras.

However, Senhor Chiveira Jorge, is adamant that the dam should be stopped. "The Côa site is the biggest and most important example of open-air galleries ... we cannot flood the engravings [because] they would have no meaning ... Underwater the whole picture would be altered ... The whole scenery of the valley taken as a whole is the true cultural art form. If we do not preserve it, we must know what we are doing: committing a horrendous crime against the memory of our own human species. The world will never forgive us."

Leading article, page 17

An unidentified woman prays at a crematorium oven in Buchenwald

Buchenwald inmate decries 'Bonn slur'

From Roger Boyes in Berlin

SOMBRE commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp yesterday took on a ferociously political tone when a former inmate accused the German authorities of shielding Nazi murderers and trying to blacken the reputation of the Communist resistance in the camp.

About 1,000 former prisoners and their liberators, veteran American soldiers, gathered at the camp, high above Weimar in eastern Germany, to mark the anniversary. The ceremony was never going to be as straightforward as those planned for Belsen, Sachsenhausen or Dachau because of the chequered history of Buchenwald.

After the war the Soviet NKVD, the forerunner of the KGB, used the barracks to intern political dissidents. Under Russian management, 13,000 people died, compared with more than 50,000 during the Nazi period from 1938 to 1945.

Disentangling the history has proved difficult and controversial. Yesterday Emil Carlebach, a Jewish former Communist prisoner, delivered a blistering attack on the Bonn Government. Perhaps anticipating trouble, no senior member of the Government attended the ceremony, only Bernhard Vogel, the regional Prime Minister.

The people who made Buchenwald possible, said Herr Carlebach, were "still respected leaders of German industry. They sit on economic advisory councils of parties which claim to be democratic. They don't raise their hand in the Hitler salute anymore, but only to grab cash from their blood-soaked dividends. And what of the officers and gentlemen who bombed villages and towns in East and West? ... They built up the new Wehrmacht and now they draw their pensions and wear with pride their Hitler medals."

Herr Carlebach's main grudge, as a member of the Communist resistance in the camp, was the simmering dispute over the role of Communist trusties in Buchenwald. Professor Lutz Niethammer, an historian, recently published documents that paint a sordid picture of the privileged life of the Communist Kapos. Co-operating with the SS camp commandant, they were allowed to run a brothel, ransack food parcels and were, by default, given power over life and death.

Herr Carlebach, his voice shaking with anger, called these charges the "most drastic of lies ... we who saved 21,000 comrades of all nationalities, we who protected 903 helpless children from the gas chambers — we are the ones who are supposed to have collaborated with the SS?"

The Communist survivors say that they had to work tightly together because the camp was in the hands of common criminals in the early days of 1938-39. Having obtained the key camp posts, in the infirmary, the pharmacy, the canteen and as block supervisors, they were able to create a protective shield around many helpless inmates. A plaque in the camp commemorates four British airmen who owed their lives to the "anti-Fascist resistance".

☐ Monument unveiled: For the first time the 500,000 gypsies murdered by the Nazis have been given their own monument. The stone tablets were unveiled at the camp on Saturday.

Europe bickers over design of coins and notes

From Wolfgang Münchau in Versailles

ALTHOUGH the timetable for a single European currency has been set back, the battle rages on over the shape and design of the new coins.

The French prefer a doughnut shape, with coins made of two different alloys, like the ten-franc coin, which has a steel core and a brass fringe. Dual-metal coins have the advantage of being more difficult to forge.

The Germans want coins made up of three flat layers of metal. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, claims that these are the ultimate in anti-forgery technology. What he did not mention is that the only European company with the technology to produce these is Krupp. Sweden has complicated the debate by insisting that none of the coins should contain nickel, which can cause allergies.

One of the few matters already settled is the denominations of eight coins. These range from 0.01 ecu to two ecus. There will also be seven banknotes, ranging from five to 500 ecus. But also still unclear is the design of the coins and the notes, and whether there will be national symbols. At a meeting of finance ministers in Versailles yesterday, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, argued passionately for the retention of the Queen's head on Britain's European currency.

The technical experts want a uniform design for easy recognition and less complicated minting, but there would be a small national emblem. Mr Clarke made it clear, however, that that might not be enough for the British public, and he suggested a national side and a European side to the currency.

But first, Mr Clarke insisted, all member states had to achieve the necessary economic improvement targets set out in the Maastricht treaty before exchange rates can be locked. Britain and Denmark must also decide whether they want to join a single currency.

High-wire act, page 41

Sterling qualities of national currency

By Joe Joseph

MOST Britons could not tell you if Charles Dickens's face graces the £5 or the £10 note. Few would guess that the first time a monarch stared back at us from a Bank of England note was in 1957, when the Queen's face was added to the fiver. How many realise that the £1 note — mourned when axed in 1984 — only entered our wallets in 1914 (a version introduced in 1797 lived only briefly before being usurped by gold sovereigns)?

Sterling's origins are even mistier, dating from about 775, when silver coins were issued in the Saxon kingdoms. After the Norman Conquest the pound was split into 20 shillings and 24 pennies. This division was dreamt up by decimal-shy Romans who invented the LSD equation in which a pound, or libra, comprised 20 solidi or 240 denarii. This formula persisted in France until 1793 (as livre-sou-denier). Britain, proud that it was not only a nation of shopkeepers, but of shopkeepers who could add 4s 11d and 7s 6d in their heads, stuck with LSD until 1971, when decimalisation put sterling on a slow raft towards Europe.

Oddly for a nation that fiddles so frequently with its notes and coins, Britain grows uneasy whenever the contents of its wallet changes shape or colour. The media have done their best to cushion the traumatic adjustments. To underline the benefits of the new smaller pound notes introduced in 1978, *The Sun* dressed a model in a bikini top made of two £1 notes ("If the shrinking pound cannot stretch as far as it used to, well, who's complaining!").

When Europe entered a new chapter in 1992 with the single market, Harrods became the first British retailer to accept payment in ecus. Made up of a basket of European currencies, the ecu was born in 1979 when most members of the EEC (except Britain) joined the European Monetary System. Although it stands for European currency unit, the ecu has a sturdier heritage. France's Louis IX issued the first *ecu d'or* in 1270. It was this historical French flavour that prompted Valery Giscard d'Estaing, then President, to champion the ecu acronym.

But the dollar has as worthy a case to become Europe's currency. It was born nearly 500 years ago as the thaler, and took its name from the St Joachimsthal, the "coin of St Joachim's Valley" in Silesia. The Habsburgs minted them. So did the Bank of England: flush with Spanish dollars during the war with France, the Bank slyly stamped the head of George III over that of Spain's King Charles IV. When Brussels stamps the head of Delors over Britain's Charles III, we will know the ecu really has arrived.

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138

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD

■ VISUAL ART

Is it a phone-box? Is it sculpture? The show of young British artists at the Saatchi Gallery has the answer. Perhaps

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow

■ MUSIC

From Lieder to the Shropshire Lad: top British baritone Thomas Allen will be on song at the Wigmore

RECITAL: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ JAZZ

Virtuoso saxophonist Phil Woods settles in with his Quartet for a hot night of cool breaks at Ronnie Scott's Club

GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

■ POP

Jimmy Nail (plus Crocodile Shoes) gives Hammersmith Apollo a night of country music, Geordie-style

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

LONDON

DUCHESS OF MALFI: Juliet Stevenson, Simon Russell Beale and Robert Demeter return to London in Philip Franks's production, on tour prior to a run in the West End. Don't miss it
Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0181-940 0088). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

JOHN PIZZARELLI: A genial son of New Jersey, Pizzarelli is a promising contender in the Harry Connick Jr laid-back crooner stakes, though it is his swing guitar playing which really catches the ear. On *Dear Mr Cole*, his latest trio recording, he tips his hat in the direction of Nat "King" Cole.
Pizza on the Park, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5273). Tonight to Apr 22.

UNCLE VANYA. Opening night for Field Day's new version, with Stephen Rea in the title role. Hopefully, the production (by Peter Gill) has firmed up since its Derry premiere.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Apr 26, 2pm and Sats, 4pm. Until Apr 29. First tickets available after Apr 14. [S]

DUSKY WARRIORS: Opening night as well for this award-winning play, set in Brighton during the First World War when the authorities virtually imprisoned injured Indian soldiers lest white women be seen with them and risk unsettling the Raj. Jeff Teare's last production here.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310). Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat May 6. [S]

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BURTON: London City Ballet arrives for five performances of an exceptional (Giselle Galina Samsova's staging, with designs by Peter Farmer;
Opera House, Water Street (0283 72190). Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm; mat Thurs, 2.30pm

CANTERBURY: How to fall off your popular radio character and find your own self again — Miriam Margolyes plays the tweedy soap heroine in Frank Marcus's excellent comedy The Killing of Sister George. With Serena Evans and Josephine Tewson, on tour prior to a run in the West End.
Marlowe, The Friars (01227 787787). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

COVENTRY. Simon Usher directs a strong cast including Louise Jameson and John Vine in Heartbreak House, Shaw's character-rich state-of-the-nation play from 1917.
Belgrade, Belgrade Square (01203 553055). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri and Sat, 8pm; mat Apr 26, 2.30pm. Until Apr 29.

NEWCASTLE: Last week for the Touring Partnership's fine revival of Peace in Our Time, Coward's 1946 drama imagining a Britain conquered by the Nazis. Wyn Jones directs the 30-strong cast.
Theatre Royal, Grey Street (0191-232 2061). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm. [S]

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) . . . **British Museum:** Contemporary Chinese Painting (0171-636 1555) . . . **Courtauld:** Frank Dobson: Sculpture (1915-1954 (071-873 2526) . . . **Hayward:** Yves Klein (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery:** Spanish Still Life from Velázquez to Goya (0171-839 3321) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Richard Avedon (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Odilon Redon (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate:** Through Switzerland With Turner (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A:** Prints of the Raphael Cartoons (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** Exhilaratin' song' n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

□ **ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES** Michel Tremblay's fascinating portrayal of a woman at different stages of her life. Miriam Karlin among the cast of five. Madeleine Wynn directs for Zenders Theatre Co.
Brickwell, Bride Lane (off Fleet St), EC4 (0171-938 3456). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm.

□ **BROKEN GLASS:** Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester superb as the central Jewish couple.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. [S]

□ **DANGEROUS CORNER:** Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

□ **IN PRAISE OF LOVE:** Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **INDIAN INK:** Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, witty, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **THE MOSQUITO COAST:** Outstanding production by the David Glass Ensemble, dramatising Paul Theroux's novel of the crazed American who drags his family into the jungle. Striking visual effects.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Apr 22.

□ **ONE FINE DAY.** Joe McGann's compelling performance as a devoted dad caught up in a child-abuse case. Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◪ **IMPATICO:** Conan Hinds, Sean McGinley, Janet McTeer and Tony Haygarth in Sam Shepard's first play for a decade. A shared secret from long ago connects two men now living very different lives. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm.

◪ **UNDER MILK WOOD:** Roger Michell directs Dylan Thomas's justly celebrated evocation of the late town of Llareggub.
Methwal (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.15pm, opens Thurs, 7pm. [S]

◪ **THE WINTER GUEST:** Phyllida Law and Sian Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensitively directed cast in Sharman Macdonald's fine play about loss, survival, the perils and joys of life.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Final week. [S]

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix, late night charity performance, 11.30pm (0171-369 1733) . . . ◪ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ■ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . . □ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ◪ **Grease:** Dominion (0171-416 6060) □ **Mama I Want to Sing:** Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . . ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal (0171-494 5400) . . . □ **My Night With Reg:** Criterion (0171-839 4488) . . . ■ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . ◪ **A Passionate Woman:** Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . . □ **She Loves Me:** Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . . ■ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . □ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE** (15): A teenager's post-war theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and newcomer Georgina Cates.
MGM: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

BLUE SKY (12): Moving film with an Oscar-winning performance by Jessica Lange as an army officer's sexy wife. Director, Tony Richardson.
NFT (071-928 3232)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): Idiotic, good-natured comedy that outstays its welcome, with Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels. Director, Peter Farrelly.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) MGM: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeon: Kensington (01426 914666) Leicester Square (01426 915662) Marble Arch (01426 914501) Swiss Cottage (01426 914666) Screen/Green (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

◆ **FAR FROM HOME** (U): Apple-cheeked family film about a boy and his dog trekking home from a boatwreck. Director, Philip Borsos.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

LITTLE BIG LEAGUE (PG): A 12 year-old manages a baseball team. Dull, insanely long comedy, with Luke Edwards and Timothy Busfield. Director, Andrew Scheinman.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Odeon Mezzanine (01426 915663)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
MGM: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA (18): Eye-grabbing fantasia on the life and writings of combative gay artist David Wojnarowicz. Director, Steve McLean.
ICA (0171-930 3647)

◆ **TERMINAL VELOCITY** (15): Sky-diver Charlie Sheen tangles with Nastassja Kinski in a dim-wited thriller with a few good stunts.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson.
MGM: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) Screen/Baker Street (0171-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18): Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Luxurious investigative thriller, with Laurence Fishburne.
MGM: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) Trocadero (0171-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) Gate (0171-727 4043) Lumiere (0171-836 0691) MGM: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) Screen/Hill (0171-435 3388) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343)

NOBODY'S FOOL (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances but not enough bite, or relevance.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) Odeons: Haymarket (01426 915253) Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) Warner (0171-437 4343)

LA REINE MARGOT (18): Bloody, brooding, occasionally impressive French history lesson, with Isabelle Adjani and Daniel Auteuil.
MGM Fordon Street (0171-930 0631)

◆ **THE RIVER WILD** (12): Criminals imperil a family on their white water rafting holiday. Enjoyable action thriller, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon.
Plaza (0500 888997)

THEATRE: Mothers and daughters at odds; plus a *Twelfth Night* to remember

Woman's work overdone

MARILYN KINGWILL

The title of this intelligent, sensitive but precious play comes from that intelligent, sensitive and precious writer, Virginia Woolf: "We think back through our mothers if we are women". That is what its author, a novelist and dramatist called Joanna McClelland Glass, has done herself and asked her characters to do, too. She has brought onstage women based (so she tells us in the programme) on

If We Are Women
Greenwich

her illiterate Scots-Canadian mother and her sophisticated Jewish-American mother-in-law, added representatives of the next two generations, and set them thinking backwards, forwards and sideways on female themes for two hours.

The excuse for hauling Sheila Paterson's doughty Ruth Macmillan and Joan Plowright's stately Rachel Cohen into the same Connecticut kitchen is that Diana Quick's Jessica, who is respectively their daughter and former daughter-in-law, is in crisis. Her man has just died. But soon a second crisis is clamouring for all three women's attention. Jessica's daughter, Caroline Catz's Polly, returns home after a night of passion with a poor little rich boy who has been expelled from school for dealing hash, and announces she is abandoning her place at Yale in order to join him on a farm out west.

This is the sort of adolescent idiocy that makes parents dream nostalgically of the 19th or, better, the 13th century, when filial obedience was demanded or, even better, enforced with shackles and chastity-belts. But Glass is a modern North American and clearly belongs to the let-them-make-their-own-mistakes school. Jessica's mother and grandmothers are appalled by what they know will end in misery and waste; but their author goes out of her way to impugn their motives and undermine their credibility.

No joke being a mother-in-law: Joan Plowright and Diana Quick in *If We Are Women*

All are disappointed and frustrated: all are projecting their own thwarted dreams on the girl. Ruth regrets having been forced by her pioneer parents to leave school without having learnt to read in order to toil on their farm. Rachel, also the daughter of immigrants, thinks an Ivy League education might have won her a seat on the Wasp gravy-train. Jessica, though now a successful author, resents her drunken father and lack of a degree. They all feel they made sacrifices that the ultimate beneficiary, Polly, is whimsically rejecting.

Given its author's own gender, the play doubtless has more authority than Albee's meditation on what it means to be female, *Three Tall Women*; but it lacks its energy, inventiveness and bite. Moreover, the dialogue becomes pretty literary at times. That may be logical when Plowright's intellectually proud Rachel is holding forth, but elsewhere tends to gum up the dramatic works. Would even the daughter of a writer really say: "I'm 18, I'm filled with hope and anticipation. I've met a wonderful boy who fills my heart"? Not if she lived in America in 1995 she wouldn't.

Still, the grannies in particular are nicely observed and all four actresses find enough life in their roles to keep Richard Olivier's production humming adroitly along. If their collective efforts are unlikely to take the town by storm, they bring a gentle distinction to Greenwich.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Give us excess of it

Twelfth Night
Barbican

"AND what should I do in Illyria?" cries Viola, newly dragged from the waves onto its shore. For her the future looks bleak enough to require the safety of a pageboy's costume, but already for us the imagination visibly and audibly at work in Ian Judge's production is leading us to expect a richly satisfying evening.

Orsino's chamber is dark, enclosed and candle-lit, a luxurious cavern for a lovesick Duke; and Clive Wood's fine speaking of the opening lines sets the pattern for the production's clarity and fruitful thought. From this enclosed space we are transported to the open coast, where a towering blue wave disgorges Viola, half-drowned in the arms of her rescuer, Emma Fielding, as well as being sensationally beautiful, howsoever dressed (and Deirdre Clancy's costumes are exquisite), displays a sturdy delicacy when playing the heroine being herself that is transformed into a delicate sturdiness when disguised as Cesario.

Her outburst of grief at the presumed death of her twin brother is heart-rending. The merriment at Olivia's predicament turns swiftly to alarm and is then modulated to a comically-viewed alarm. In the ambivalent love-scenes with Orsino, the music of the lines finds full expression in the motion of her voice, and her large, limpid eyes fill with feeling as she gazes across his shoulder.

The expectations planted by the early scenes are not disappointed. Haydn Gwynne's Olivia cleverly suggests quizzical curiosity; and the Tudor mansion John Gunter has designed for her is the setting for amusing tomfoolery from the addled knights, Tony Britton's Sir Toby and Bille Brown's Aguecheek. By making their midnight merrymaking genuinely jolly, Malvolio's spoilsport intervention becomes a credible spur for their revenge.

Looming over these scenes, like a dark balloon tethered to the earth by his dainty umbrella, moves the great shape of Desmond Barrit's Malvolio. Pompous and playful by turns, he becomes sublimely comic in the protracted lead-up to his first smile, shaping up to the ordeal like an athlete preparing for a marathon. In his yellow and black he is like an overwhelming wasp, and the sting in his last revengeful line is the more deadly for being scarcely louder than a whisper.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Always with us

FIRST the technology brought us Natalie Cole duetting with her late father, Nat "King" Cole. Now it links the voice of Matt Monro, who died in 1985, with that of his youngest son, Matt Jnr. The two sing together on a remake of Matt Snr's 1970s radio hit, *We're Gonna Change The World*, released as a single this week. A forthcoming album, *Matt Sings Monro* will feature 13 other such pairings from beyond the grave.

● THE actor **Simon Russell Beale**, who was expected to play Hamlet later in the season for director **Sam Mendes**, looks as if he will be everywhere but the Donmar Warehouse. First, he accepted the starring role opposite **Juliet Stevenson** in *The Duchess of Malfi*, transferring to the West End on April 25. Now it appears that he will be Mosca to **Michael Gambon's** Volpone in the Ben Jonson satire opening this summer at the National Theatre.

● THAT androgynous hero of yesteryear, **Boy George**, has just released the single *Funtime*, a cover of a 1977 composition by Iggy Pop and David Bowie. Taken from the forthcoming album *Cheapness And Beauty*, due on May 1, it precedes an autobiography — wryly titled *Take It Like A Man* — to be published later this month.

● NOVELIST, playwright, translator, journalist now **Michael Frayn** adds one more string to his bow — that of opera librettist. He is adapting Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* for English National Opera, renaming it whimsically as *Helen goes to Paris or The Origins of the Franco-Prussian War*. It is one of ten new productions planned for 1995-96 at the Coliseum. ENO will be celebrating Purcell's tercentenary with *The Fairy Queen* and Hans Werner Henze's 70th birthday with a production of his *The Prince of Homburg*. **Jonathan Miller** is working on a new *Carmen*, and it seems likely that ENO will be staging the acclaimed *Turandot* with **David Hockney's** designs.

● UNEXPECTED exposure for the R.E.M. track *Everybody Hurts* comes in a series of full-page advertisements by the Samaritans in the rock press. Marking the first anniversary of **Kurt Cobain's** suicide, and also acknowledging the continued disappearance of Manic Street Preachers guitarist **Richey Edwards**, the organisation seeks to capture the attention of potentially disturbed music fans by printing two verses of R.E.M's lyric above the copy line "Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you".

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't (LAST PERF) 7.30 LIFE WITH AN IDIOT Tomor, Thu 7.15, Sat 6.30 DON GIOVANNI Wed (FIRST NIGHT) 7.00 COSI FAN TUTTE

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Tomor 7.30 PETER GRIMES Thur 7.30 (First Night) UN BALLO IN MASCHERA The Royal Ballet Ton't 7.30, Sat 2.00 & 7.00 ROMEO AND JULIET Wed 7.30 STARVINSKY STAGED

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" Wall St Journal SUNSET BOULEVARD Starring BETTY BUCKLEY 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee) SRP BOOKING 413 3352 (bkg fee) NO BOOKING FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE Recorded Information 0171 379 6564 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY WC2 369 1730/344 4444 JOE McGANN in ONE FINE DAY Eves 8pm, Mats Thur 3, Sat 5

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 497 9977 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 FELICITY KENDAL MARGARET TYZACK & ART MALIK in INDIAN INK "TOM STOPPARDS TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END" Today. Directed by PETER WOOD

AMBASSADORS 836 5111/ 035 1171 cc 497 9977/344 4444 (No Fees) MIRIAM MARGOYLES JOSEPHINE TEWSON SERENA EVANS THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE FRANK MARCUS' COMEDY FROM 26 APRIL - LTD SEASON

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6043 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 497 9977 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO 0171 494 5069/ 344 4444 PETER BOWLES LISA HARROW in TERENCE RATTIGAN'S IN PRAISE OF LOVE "A SUBLIME JOY" D.Mail "IT IS UNBEARABLE" Today Eves 8pm Mat Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm

ARTS THEATRE Gt Newport St WC2 BO 0171 836 2132 / CC 0171 344 4444 (24hrs) FEVER PITCH "unsparingly funny ...unstoppable...wonderful" TO Ibsen Fri 8, Sat 6.15 Standby £7.50

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CAMBRIDGE THEATRE 0171 494 5080 CC 497 9977/344 4444 (prices 7 days, bkg fee) New York's smash hit musical MAMA, I WANT TO SING starring CHAKA KHAN "blazes hot & electric" E.Std Mon-Thurs 7.45pm, Fri 5.30PM & 8.15PM, Sat 3pm & 7.45pm Fri 5.30pm only all tickets £15.00

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970 FAME THE MUSICAL Reduced Price Prevs from 16 June

COMEDY BO 0171 369 1731 cc 344 4444 Grps 413 3321 THE MOST ACCLAIMED COMEDY OF THE YEAR STEPHANIE COLE "Dazzlingly special" Daily Mail A PASSIONATE WOMAN By KAY MELLOR Directed by NED SHERRIN Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Wed 3pm, Sat 4pm Prices 7 Stay SUNDAY PERF'S AT 4PM

CRITERION THEATRE 0171 839 4488/0171 344 4444/497 9977 ★ BEST COMEDY ★ Olivier Awards Evening Standard Awards MY NIGHT WITH REG by Kevin Elyot David Bamber Best Actor - Olivier Awards Eves 8pm Wed & Sat Mats 4pm

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/240 7941 GREASE Starring SHANE RICHIE and SAMANTHA JARVIS "Fast, fabulous & free, free, free." Daily Mirror Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm SOME GREAT SEATS AVAILABLE MON - THUR TONIGHT, WED & THUR THE ROLE OF DANNY WILL BE PLAYED BY RICHARD CALKIN

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/497 9977 Grps 312 8000/494 5454 MISS SAIGON "THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME" NOW IN ITS 8TH SENSATIONAL YEAR! Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 071 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee)/439 3428 (bkg fee) 071-413 3321 Eves 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 "A SAUCY COMEDY" E. Std NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "Gloriously Outrageous" T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 071 836 5122/ 9837 CC 497 9977/ 344 4444(no fee) BEST PLAY 1995 OLIVIER AWARDS Henry Goodman Ken Stott Margot Leicester Following the sell out run at the Royal National Theatre BROKEN GLASS Dir by David Thacker "Arthur Miller has never written anything better" The Sunday Times Mon-Sat 7.45pm Wed & Sat 3.00pm ONLY 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO TOUR

FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (24hrs No fee) 344 4444 (No fee)/ Grps 413 3321 "A FEAST OF THEATRICALITY" D.Mail JOHN NORRINGTON MICHAEL GRANDAGE Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Tues 3pm & Sat 4pm

GARRICK 071 494 5083 CC 497 9977 PAUL MERTON CAROLINE QUENTIN LIVE BED SHOW "This funniest sex comedy" D.Exp Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri & Sat 6.30 & 8.45pm LAST 3 WEEKS LIMITED SEASON TO 29 APR Some Seats still available Fr 6.30pm £9.50 on day

GIELGUD 0171 494 5065/344 4444 Rupert Graves Rachel Weisz Marcus D'Amico & Nicholas Clay in NOEL COWARD'S DESIGN FOR LIVING Dir by SEAN MATHIAS "TRIUMPHANT - ANOTHER CULT WEST END HIT IN SIGHT" D.Mail Eves 7.45, Thur & Sat Mats 3pm

HAYMARKET BO/CC 071-930 8800 24 hr cc with fee 344 4444/ 497 9977 Evenings 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Dorothée Walley Paul Shelley The National Theatre production of Tom Stoppard's "MASTERPIECE" D.Telegraph ARCADIA Directed by Trevor Nunn BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR Evn Standard Drama Award 1993 Laurence Olivier Award 1993/94 OVER 400 PERFORMANCES

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 0171 930 0123 ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Directed by HAROLD PRINCE NOW BKG TO 9 DEC 1995 Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1.50 ser chg) 497 9977 Grps 0171 240 7941 JONATHAN PRYCE in OLIVER! "LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE" S.Times Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 CHECK WITH B.O FOR RETURNS & CANCELLATIONS CAST ALBUM OUT NOW

LYRIC Shaftesbury Ave BO & cc 0171 494 5045 cc 416 6086 Grps 494 5454/416 6075/413 3321/ 312 1970/240 7941 "FIVE STAR ENTERTAINMENT" S.Times AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' "PURE GENIUS...TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY" D.Mail "An evening of stomping, tapping, exuberant song & dance" Times Eves 8pm Mats Thur 3pm Sat 5pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 OLIVIER Ton't, Tomor (PREVIEWS) 7.15 UNDER MILK WOOD Dylan Thomas LYTTELTON Ton't, Tomor 7.30 WHAT THE BUTLER SAW Joe Orton COTTESLOE Ton't, Tomor 7.30 LEAVE TAKING Winsome Pickock

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 344 4444/497 9977 Grps 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616/497 9977 TONY AWARD WINNER JUDD HIRSCH "A MAGNIFICENT, TOWERING PERFORMANCE" Daily Mail "faultless comic timing" Independent CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER "wonderfully funny...generous and humanising" Sun Times HERB GARDNER "writes from the gut as well as his heart and soul" Sun Express 'ALAN AYCKBOURN'S DIRECTING IS FAULTLESS' Mail Eves 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 2.30

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444/497 9977 Group Sales 0171 930 6123 Groups 0171 494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/497 9977 (fee) BEST MUSICAL ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS WILLY RUSSELL'S BLOOD BROTHERS STEPHANIE LAWRENCE "ASTONISHING" S Express ...brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

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PICCADILLY 369 1734/344 4444 BEST NEW MUSICAL Olivier Award Nomination 1995 ONLY THE LONELY THE ROY ORBISON STORY "The Best New Musical in Town...Brilliant" Mail on Sun. Tues-Thurs 8, Fri 5.15 & 8.15, Sat 5 & 8.30 1/2 PRICE FRI MAT. MR. SUNDAY MATINEE AT 4PM SPECIAL EASTER TREAT Tues Night is Party Night Thru April - 2 for 1!

PLAYHOUSE 839 4401/497 9977 JOHN GODBER'S HIT COMEDY UP 'N' UNDER 'A FUN PACKED TRIUMPH' D.Exp 'AN UNQUALIFIED DELIGHT' Td "KEEPS AUDIENCE IN STITCHES" F.T. Eves 8, Mats Thurs 3 & Sat 5 No Perfs Easter Fri or Mon Transfer Road 8.18 out means

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987/836 3464/416 6020/344 4444 Grp's 0171 413 3321 Barry Manilow's *COPACABANA* 'An Evening of Pure Delight' D.Mail 'The 1st Musical Starring DARREN DAY 'Nothing Can Possibly Top This' D.Tel *COPACABANA* 'The Entire Audience was on it's feet' Eves 8pm, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Group discounts available SEATS NOW AVAILABLE

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no bkg fee) First Call 836 3464 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123 BEST MUSICAL Laurence Olivier Awards (8) ALL SINGING ALL DANCING ALL GERSHWIN CRAZY FOR YOU "PUTS THE BRIGHT LIGHTS BACK IN THE WEST END IN DAZZLING STYLE" M.o.S. Eves 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK

QUEEN'S 494 5041 cc 497 9977 /344 4444 Groups 930 6123 EXPLOSIVE DANCE, COOL JAZZ HOT MIKADO Previews from 18 May

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN TWELFTH NIGHT Ton't 7.15 THE PIT: AFTER EASTER Ton't 7.15 STRATFORD (01789 295623) RSC ROMEO & JULIET Ton't 7.30 SWAN THE DEVIL IS AN ASS Ton't 7.30

SAVOY 0171 836 8888 cc 24hr/7 days no bkg fee 497 9977 Grps 413 3321/312 1920. Winner 6 1994 Laurence Olivier Musical Awards JOHN GORDON SINCLAIR RUTHIE HENSHALL BEST ACTOR BEST ACTRESS BEST DIRECTOR BEST SUPPORTING PERF BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL SHE LOVES ME BEST MUSICAL Critics Circle Award Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

SHAFTESBURY BO 0171 379 5399 cc 24hr 413 3586 Grps 930 6123 GORDON KAYE BILLIE McCLANAHAN HARVEY by MARY CHASE Dir by CLIFFORD WILLIAMS Prevs 16/17 May Opens 18 May FOR A LIMITED SEASON

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 (no bkg fee) 0171 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 0171 312 1924 (no bkg fee) Eves 8, Tues 2.45, Sat 5 & 8 43rd Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND 0171 930 8800 or 0171 344 4444/497 9977 24hrs(no bkg fee, DAVID THACKER'S 'THRILLING PRODUCTION' D.Tel of ARTHUR MILLER'S A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE with BERNARD HILL 'UNFORGETTABLY POWERFUL' Ind. Tue-Sat 7.45 Mats Thu 2 Sat/SUN 3.

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VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 cc 497 9977 (No Fees) OPENS MAY 9 DIRECT FROM SELL OUT SUCCESS AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE DEALER'S CHOICE by PATRICK MARBER Evgs 7.45 Sats 5.0, 8.15 Mats Wed 3.0

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987/497 9977/344 4444 (24hrs no fee) KILLER JOE "Superb" The Times Mon-Sat 8.00pm Ext to 22 April

VICTORIA PALACE Box Off & cc (No bkg fee) 0171 834 1317 CC (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444/497 9977 Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 930 6123 * BUDDY * The Buddy Holly Story "BRILLIANT" Sun * BUDDY * "WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel * BUDDY * Mon-Thur 8.00 Fri 5.30 & 8.30 Sat 5.00 & 8.30. ALL SEAT

■ THEATRE

Llareggub-bound: Dylan Thomas's radio classic, Under Milk Wood, is staged by the National

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

■ OPERA

Top notes and top prices as Covent Garden welcomes back Pavarotti in Verdi's Un ballo in maschera

OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

■ FILMS

An ugly duckling who turns into a swan: that's the story of the new Aussie comedy, Muriel's Wedding

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

■ BOOKS

Secret no longer: the work of spymaster Sir Dick White revealed in Tom Bower's The Perfect English Spy

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

OPERA: Poor conducting mars a night of great singing at the Royal Opera; while the Baroque revival produces a dud

DONALD COOPER

Ben Heppner (Peter Grimes) and Bryn Terfel (Captain Bulstrode): the confrontation of these two hurling words and notes at each other in the storm was theatre at its rawest

Big Ben wins sympathy vote

Peter Grimes
Covent Garden

This revival of Britten's opera marks both the 50th anniversary of the work's premiere and the 20th of Elijah Moshinsky's all-blazing production. As Ben Heppner said in Saturday's *Times*, "it fairly reeks of fish", which freed it does, and not just in an Engish Heritage sense. It reeks of some jetty stinking fish as well, suggesting via Timothy O'Brien's and Tazeen Firth's claustrophobic set and brilliantly informative costumes a repressed community whose explosion into mob violence in Act III is alarming. That boar's head stuck on a pole in the pub scene says a lot about the *Lord of the Flies* tendency in Engish society.

Heppner is really cast in this generally "Grimes is innocent — OK!" reading, though it was a pity that on Saturday the precise cause-and-effect sequence of the apprentice's death and the Borough's intrusion was maintained. Heppner presents a big, shambling, clumsy man, and the way he picked his apprentices up swung him round with a gleeful grin — "We're going to swim!" — and then absent-mindedly dropped him indicated that the odd bruise might indeed have come "out of the hurly-burly". His recollections of the previous boy's death always suggested trauma, never guilt, and his impatience with Ellen's questioning in Act II — he simply didn't understand what she was talking about — spoke volumes.

He sang with scalp-tingling power, his youthful heldentenor obviously placing him in the post-Pears tradition of his compatriot Jon Vickers rather than that of Rolfe Johnson. But as regards pitch and rhythm he was much more disciplined than the former and his natural musicianship is reminiscent of the latter. Everyday pride and ambition were convincingly balanced with the visionary side of the man; he made the pub solo seem the most natural of effusions rather than an "arty" interpolation. And his Mad Scene was conceived on a truly epic scale, "Turn the skies back" ringing round the auditorium with the power of ten Siegfrieds.

Heppner's very size makes him an earth-force, and the same is true of Bryn Terfel's Balstrode: the confrontation of these two hurling words and notes at each other in the storm was theatre at its rawest. Terfel's Balstrode is so forceful, so searing in his condemnation of Borough gossip (there were lines in the Act II ensemble that I have never heard before) that his meek acquiescence in the communal sacrifice is all the more disturbing. Good old English pragmatism, I suppose. Britten knew his countrymen.

The evening's moments of power were achieved in spite of, rather than because of, what was happening in the pit. Indeed, any tension in this particular month deriving from an opera about a fisherman sung by a Canadian and conducted by a Spaniard was notable by its absence. It sounded as though Arturo Tamayo had a passing acquaintance with the score, rather than deep knowledge. Too many passages weren't together, ensemble was mushy, choral entries tentative, tempos sluggish and lacking in inner tension.

This put unwarranted strain on Josephine Barstow's practised Ellen — she suffered particularly from the lethargic speeds for her big scene with Grimes and the Embroidery aria. But her actual traversal of the notes, if not her innate sense of line, was as communicative as ever. Robin Leggate's manic Bob Boles, Catherine Wyn-Rogers's snake-like Mrs Sedley and Claire Powell's surprisingly youthful Auntie managed to inject some spirit into proceedings; chorus and orchestra were understandably below their best.

RODNEY MILNES

Locked out by a greater composer

Psyche
Queen Elizabeth Hall

TURNING the key to Matthew Locke's *Psyche* is no simple matter. This semi-opera, probably composed in 1675, exists in short-score with indications such as "wind instruments" which provide ample fodder for a man of Philip Pickett's imagination.

Here he took the cue from much earlier (and much more sophisticated) Italian opera, adding a regal for infernal scenes, for instance, and freely deploying trumpets, oboes, flageolets, even anvils and tambourines to the music which to him seemed, for reasons scholarly and theatrical, to demand it. And with the help of Peter Holman he also inserted a couple of dance tunes, originally for keyboard, by Draghi.

All that worked well in this context. What was less satisfying was the music itself and the way in which the performance substituted Shadwell's spoken drama — this is the prototype for Purcell's "semi-operas" — with anonymously penned versified summaries. Edward de Souza was the narrator, and he was not exactly inspired to make a silk purse from the sow's ear.

The evening began with an inappropriate apologia spoken by him, couched in corny couplets which poured scorn upon those engaged in showing us just how great a composer Purcell is. Yes, there is a lot of Purcell about and yes, it is useful to hear some of his contemporaries' music as well. But it is misguided to claim equal stature for those contemporaries.

Indeed, for all the colour that Pickett, authentically or not, brought to it, when compared with almost anything by Purcell, most of the music in *Psyche* is dull. It lacks variety of phrase-length, rhythmic imagination, intensity of harmonic expression. Above all, it does not possess the force of personality that leaps from Purcell's pen.

One can imagine *Psyche* having a marvellous effect in a full production, and there are some inspired moments. The ensemble of the four suicidal lovers, for instance, is a rare instance of genuine emotion, while the trio of three trebles and ensuing "soft music" in Act V is also lovely. Yet Locke does little to disguise the paucity of Shadwell's verse. To have a chorus boisterously singing over and over again such a couplet as "For the Monster is dead/And here is his head" is only to encourage mirth.

Though the New London Consort might sometimes have enlivened the music with more sparkle in their rhythms, they played well enough, and the singing by a cast that included as principals Catherine Bott, Christopher Robson, Andrew King, Julian Podger and Roderick Williams (of whom we shall undoubtedly hear more) in multifarious roles was also reliable without stirring too many emotions. But the audience reacted warmly to the enterprise, and those who were not present will be able to judge the music for themselves when the promised recording comes out.

STEPHEN PETTITT

JAZZ: Eclecticism at its best

At home on a wide range

Dianne Reeves
Jazz Café, NW1

SINCE her "discovery" by trumpeter Clark Terry while singing with her high school's big band at a National Association of Jazz Educators' Conference in Chicago, Dianne Reeves has ploughed a highly individual furrow. In addition to working with Sergio Mendes and Harry Belafonte, she has made seven albums of everything from jazz standards through traditional folk music to rock and soul. She sees jazz as her "foundation", but thinks "the most important thing is honesty in the choice of material: singing about the things I really know and interpreting and arranging them in a way that is uniquely Dianne Reeves".

On her recordings, this eclecticism can seem a little contrived, blurring her artistic focus and lessening the impact of her extraordinarily powerful contralto voice, with its celebrated three-and-a-half-octave range. Live, however, the sheer force of her personality binds all the disparate musical strands together into what she calls "music without borders".

Beginning a 90-minute performance with a personal musical statement — "I am a woman, I am an artist, I sing no victim's song" — over tight funk from her quintet under the musical direction of pianist David Torkanowsky, her voice was that of a sophisticated soul singer in the Anita Baker mould. Two songs later, and she was in jazz-singer mode, leading the band through a spankingly up-tempo *Hello, Haven't I Seen You Before*; alternately soaring and scatting her way through Harold Arlen's *Sing, My Heart* and interspersing droll references to the venue's seating arrangements with wonderfully flexible vocal gymnastics in an extended *Softly, as in a Morning Sunrise*.

Then came a series of more overtly personal musical statements. Written with long-time collaborator Eddie del Barrio, *Nine*, a highlight of her latest Blue Note recording, *Quiet after the Storm*, is a heartfelt but feisty lament about the diminishing role of imagination in contemporary children's lives.

On both this and the set's closer, her signature tune *Better Days*, Reeves not only demonstrated her superb gift for vocal improvisation, but also displayed a somewhat rarer talent: an ability to involve an audience in intimate reminiscence without straying into embarrassing sentimentality.

Successfully assimilating a range of contemporary musics, as Reeves has done, into a highly effective personal style is one thing; convincing an audience that your grandmother was an inexhaustible fount of wisdom — as she also did — is quite another.

CHRIS PARKER

CONCERTS: The maestro of minimalism opens his South Bank festival; and Roger Norrington tackles Mahler

Play it again, Mr Nyman

Michael Nyman Band
Festival Hall

FEW people stager out of a Michael Nyman concert indifferent to what they have heard. You are either exhilarated by the musical equivalent of being mindbagged round the head, or outraged. The volume level is too high, the timbres too aggressive, the repetition too relentless for listeners to remain ambivalent.

Then there is the Nyman audience. You either want to be part of that headbanging-for-intellectuals scene or you react angrily against it.

Well, call me an old poseur, but I found much Saturday night's noisy entertainment irresistible. The first concert in the South Bank's Nyman festival, it offered a kind of "Loudest Hits So Far" introduction to this Engish minimalist's late-blooming career.

Here, for instance, was the iron-sinewed Michael Nyman Band blasting Mozart into the postmodern era via Nyman's "signature-tune", *In Re Don Giovanni* and the fabulously brutal *Drowning by Numbers* (or "Death by Decibels" as the cognoscenti know it). And here was Purcell being dragged backwards through a thicket of blaring saxophones, stabbing strings and pounding brass in the delightfully named *Chasing Sheep is Best Left to Shepherds*.

I prefer Nyman in this deflowering-the-Old-Masters mood, where the wild instrumental timbres and ferocious speeds seem to fight against, but never liberate themselves from, the rigid fascism of the repeated harmonies. His more recent works — such pieces as the 1991 ballet score, *The Fall of Icarus*, and *3 Quartets* — are certainly far richer in harmony and syncopation. That, however, merely makes them sound like something Stravinsky wrote 60 years ago. The pile-driving zest of classic Nyman is diminished.

But with his bizarre and magnificent *The Upside-Down Violin* (written for Expo 92 in Seville) Nyman has struck gold. It isn't a piece that is likely to be over-performed, since it requires not only Nyman's band but also an entire Moroccan orchestra: the glorious Orquesta Andalusi de Tetuan. Sinuous, vaguely Arabian tunes — played at frantic speed against a background of Moroccan percussion, lute and zither — are tossed from African to English musicians, more or less in unison and with increasing exuberance.

I suspect that here Nyman is treating the delicate, thousand-year-old modes of Arab-Andalusian music with all the sledgehammer subtlety that he had earlier brought to Mozart and Purcell. But the red-fezzed Moroccans seemed happy with the collaboration, and the audience rose ecstatically to a standing ovation.

RICHARD MORRISON

Europe meets Africa in *The Upside-Down Violin*: the Michael Nyman Band and the Orquesta Andalusi de Tetuan

Too hard-driven for Mahler's good

LPO/Norrington
Festival Hall

THE omnivorous Roger Norrington has taken Mahler into his maw, but without obvious delight. The Fourth Symphony — the one whose idyllic, partly subconscious, summer genesis caused Mahler to comment that he did not compose, one was composed — was subjected to keen-eared and often over-cerebral scrutiny.

The driven, severely rhythmic string playing, lightly-veined cellos and hard-edged woodwind made the first movement sound more like a route march than a walk through countryside. And the Scherzo, with its acerbic solo for Death the Fiddler, lost in rigidity of pulse what it had gained in nicely disquieting harshness of timbres and whiplash accents.

Norrington, according to his own programme-note, carefully researched Mahler's own metronome marks and piano-rolls to establish a tempo for the finale, with its vocal (Amanda Roocroft) apotheosis of the childlike "heavenly pleasures" existing in the world of nature and spirit. The result was predictably, but still disappointingly, prosaic. Norrington may have done better to remind himself of Mahler's own declaration that metronome marks were inadequate, almost worthless. "All the most important things," he said, "the tempo, the total conception and structuring of a work — are almost impossible to pin down."

Norrington's approach — one which paid at least lip-service to the Mahler scholar Deryck Cooke's view of the work as a unique "neo-rococo stylisation" — revealed most in the slow movement. Here, the clarity of the violins, in dialogue with each other either side of the podium, did uncover fresh melodic and harmonic twists and turns, a kaleidoscope of bright fragments in the variations.

Too much, though, both here and in the *Lieder eines fahrenden gesellen* before the interval, sounded at best contrived, at worst pedestrian. The London Philharmonic was joined by baritone Hakan Hagegard, and he seemed barely moved by the poetry's agonies and ecstasies and was content to entrust details of colour and character to the orchestra.

HILARY FINCH

POP

Return of old softie

Dean Friedman
Bloomsbury Theatre, WC1

LIKE disco, Dean Friedman represents a pop phenomenon which flourished briefly in the late 1970s, then faded from view just as quickly. At the marshmallow end of the male singer-songwriter spectrum — Billy Joel is a hard nut by comparison, Randy Newman a veritable pickled walnut — he favoured material based on conversational exchanges or domestic trivia. Sometimes he combined the two, as in *Lucky Star* — the duet with Denise Marsa which provided him with his biggest UK hit. An over-nasal bickering session set to music, it gained an ubiquity that may have contributed to the demise of the New Jersey suburbanite's career. Repeated exposure to someone else's home sparring proves wearing.

His life in recent years has been one of multi-media mogul mania. Friedman claims. He has been getting to grips with technology, writing synthesizer textbooks and designing video games. He has also tried his hand at composing for television and film, with success. Now, though, he is considering a return to his original muse and, during a residency at the Bloomsbury which represented his first British appearances in eight years, presented material from an as-yet-uncontracted album, *Songs for Grown Ups*. Not that it proved so very adult.

Friedman's observations on life and love are relentlessly soft-core. This can result in pleasing whimsy, but more generally acts as a reminder that other writers have been more eloquent and less self-conscious in describing the middle-class, middle-brow Jewish-American experience. Even so, such new compositions as *Sandy, Wishing on a Satellite* and *Jennifer's Baby* proved far preferable to the singer's ventures into the world of children. The average Brit-kid would protest to Childline if exposed to a Friedman lullaby.

But few in the auditorium last Thursday evening shared these misgivings. An indulgent audience loved every second of a lengthy show, and warmly welcomed back its performer.

ALAN JACKSON

On the trail of the missing neutrinos ☐ Unlocking the secret of a bacterium that traps sunlight ☐ When can a wheel have five sides?

Elusive clues to the universe

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

DEEP beneath the Apennines, an experiment with an artificial sun has confirmed that there really are too few neutrinos *around. And that,* in a roundabout way, could have implications for the future of the universe.

For nearly 30 years, scientists have been trying to measure the flow of neutrinos from the Sun. These particles are hard to detect because although they are produced in astonishing numbers — 66 billion are calculated to rain down on each square centimetre of the Earth's surface every second — they pass straight through matter without any noticeable effect.

Just occasionally, a neutrino may collide directly with the nucleus of an atom, and alter it. That is the basis of neutrino detectors, which are always buried deep underground to prevent disruption by cosmic rays. At the *Grand Sasso tunnel in the Apennines,* the detector consists of a tank containing 100 tons of gallium chloride solution.

The idea is to measure the rate at which the gallium is converted into germanium by neutrino collisions. This is agonisingly slow — at atom or so a day in the entire detector — so very sensitive chemistry is needed to pick it up. The result of this experiment, called Gallex, has been similar to those of other neutrino detectors. Gallex finds only about 60 per cent of the neutrinos expected.

Given the uncertainties, *this could simply be* experimental error, so the Gallex team set out to calibrate their instrument by using a "surrogate sun" consisting of a lump of radioactive chromium-51, which decays naturally to vanadium-51, emitting neutrinos that mimic very well the solar neutrinos the detector is designed to spot.

A group at the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow took on the job, enriching 36 kilograms of chromium. This source was placed inside the Gallex detector, spewing out 100,000 billion neutrinos per second. The detector was found to be working well, proving that the lack of solar neutrinos could not be blamed on experimental error.

So why are they missing? Maybe our models of the Sun are wrong, and it simply produces fewer neutrinos. That is considered unlikely, because the models explain all other aspects of solar behaviour well. Another possibility is that some of the neutrinos manage to transform themselves *en route* into different kinds of neutrino which the detector cannot capture.

That could happen, but only if the neutrinos have mass. And if neutrinos have even very little mass, then they could help explain the apparent lack of matter in the universe — the so-called "missing mass" problem. Ultimately it is the amount of mass in the universe which determines whether it goes on expanding, or eventually goes into reverse and contracts again.

Some recent experiments at Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico suggest that neutrinos can, indeed, switch from one type to another. But the mass that emerges from these experiments is not the same as that predicted by the theory that best explains the solar neutrino data. The neutrinos look like keeping their secrets hidden for a little longer.

Light work

A BRITISH team, from the University of Glasgow and the Research Councils' Daresbury Laboratory near Warrington, has completed a *tour de force* of structural analysis.

The team has worked out the structure of a key part of a bacterium, *Rhodopseudonomas acidophila,* which can capture solar energy. The bacterium comes from North America, where it forms a purplish scum on the surface of polluted water, getting its energy by photosynthesis.

As well as helping to explain the mechanism by which bacteria, algae and plants use sunlight, the discovery could ultimately lead to far more efficient solar cells.

Photosynthesis depends on a family of molecules called chlorophylls. These have two main elements: a light-harvesting complex, and the reaction centre, which converts light into electrical energy. The structure of the reaction centre was worked out by a German group in 1985. They won the 1988 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for the work.

Using X-ray diffraction, the British team, led by Professor Neil Isaacs, has worked out the structure of the light-harvesting complex in the bacterium. It turns out to be rather elegant: a ring, made up of nine identical units, the photosynthetic pigment molecules being trapped inside two concentric spirals of protein molecules.

Now the researchers can begin to explain how the bacterium can trap light and transfer its energy with 95 per cent efficiency, while the best solar cells produced so far achieve a mere 20 per cent.

High impact

A South African company has reinvented the wheel — and it's five-sided. The curious vehicle bearing the wheels is to make its British debut next month at SED'95, an annual event at which the construction industry shows off its equipment.

The machine is designed for compacting soil, sand, gravel and other loose material quickly and efficiently. The rollers at the front of the vehicle have a series of points, alternating with flat faces. As the roller moves forward, it rises on the points and then crashes down so that the flat faces strike the ground in a series of blows. The idea, obvious when you think of it, was developed by civil engineer Aubrey Berrangé.

The roller moves forward at a speed calculated to deliver about two blows a second, each transferring a great deal of energy into the ground. The makers, Landpac, say that this is far more efficient than the conventional type of roller, and better for many tasks than mechanical stampers.

It can be used for compacting the sub-base of roads, creating simple roads across sand, or compacting old backfilled quarries so that the materials packed densely enough to bear the weight of construction. Landpac machines have been busy for 20 years in South Africa, but sanctions prevented their export till now. Stand by for a bumpy ride.

Life gleaned from a rock

Jane Stirling discovers how ancient plants contain the natural history of the world

Imagine a world devoid of land plants and animals, says Dianne Edwards. A land without soil matured by the decayed bodies of past generations or bound and stabilised by the roots of the living; a world whose surfaces are barren, exposed and hostile to life.

This was the likely appearance of the Earth before plants emerged from their protected habitats in the seas, lakes and rivers and began to colonise the land 420-390 million years ago.

The advance of plants onto *terra firma* was an enormous step, says Professor Edwards, making it sound for a moment as though they just grew legs and walked out of the sea. "It led eventually to changes in the composition of the atmosphere, soil formation and a wonderful diversity of plants and animals, including, of course, ourselves."

Dianne Edwards, 53, is Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of South Wales in Cardiff, and studies the fossil remains of plants that lived in the Silurian to Early Devonian periods. Although algae and cyanobacteria are believed to have preceded them, these plants were pioneers, coping with limited and fluctuating water supplies and *high levels of radiation.* "It's as if many different ideas were tried out in the new environment, leaving natural selection to choose the best."

Mention of fossils conjures up dusty museum cases with a few ancient, unloved specimens, but the laboratory in which we are talking is brightly lit and equipped with scanning electron microscopes. These use a beam of electrons rather than light to illuminate the specimens, which greatly enhances the quality of the images that are transmitted to the television monitor. What appears on the screen though, *is not anything that the average* keen gardener would recognise. Professor Edwards explains: "As they lacked both leaves and roots, the outward appearance of the first known plants on land shows little resemblance to today's. They had branching stems and grew upright and were so tiny that several could have fitted on the head of a pin. At the cellular level, however, there is a remarkable similarity and little change has occurred over *400 million years. It's all there* in the early plants, but on a minute scale."

Fossils tell us that by the end of the Devonian period, modern plants such as the club mosses, horse-tails, ferns and the earliest seed plants were already in existence, she went on. "The only significant changes to plant structure since then have been the evolution of the flowering plants, which currently dominate the Earth's surface, and plants whose modified photosynthetic pathway allows them to inhabit the warmer, *drier areas of the Earth.*" Looking forward, for a change, she predicts that with global warming and rising levels of atmospheric CO_2, "these could be the dominant plants of the future."

The natural history of the whole world, it seems, is contained in fossilised plants, and their spores and seeds. "We know from fossils that plants first developed roots in the *Lower Devonian* — a key event. Roots meant the stabilising of river banks and additional means of breaking up rocks into soil through chemical weathering."

One of the best sites for fossil plant remains is at Rhynie Chert in Aberdeenshire, but luckily for palaeobotanists they have more exotic locations too. Professor Edwards is enjoying a one-year fellowship funded by the Leverhulme Trust and administered by the Royal Society which is enabling her to take a sabbatical year. She has been on fossil-hunting expeditions in Bolivia, Argentina and to Venezuela, where apparently the fossils are radically different from the rest of South America and the Southern continents, but are curiously similar to those found in New York.

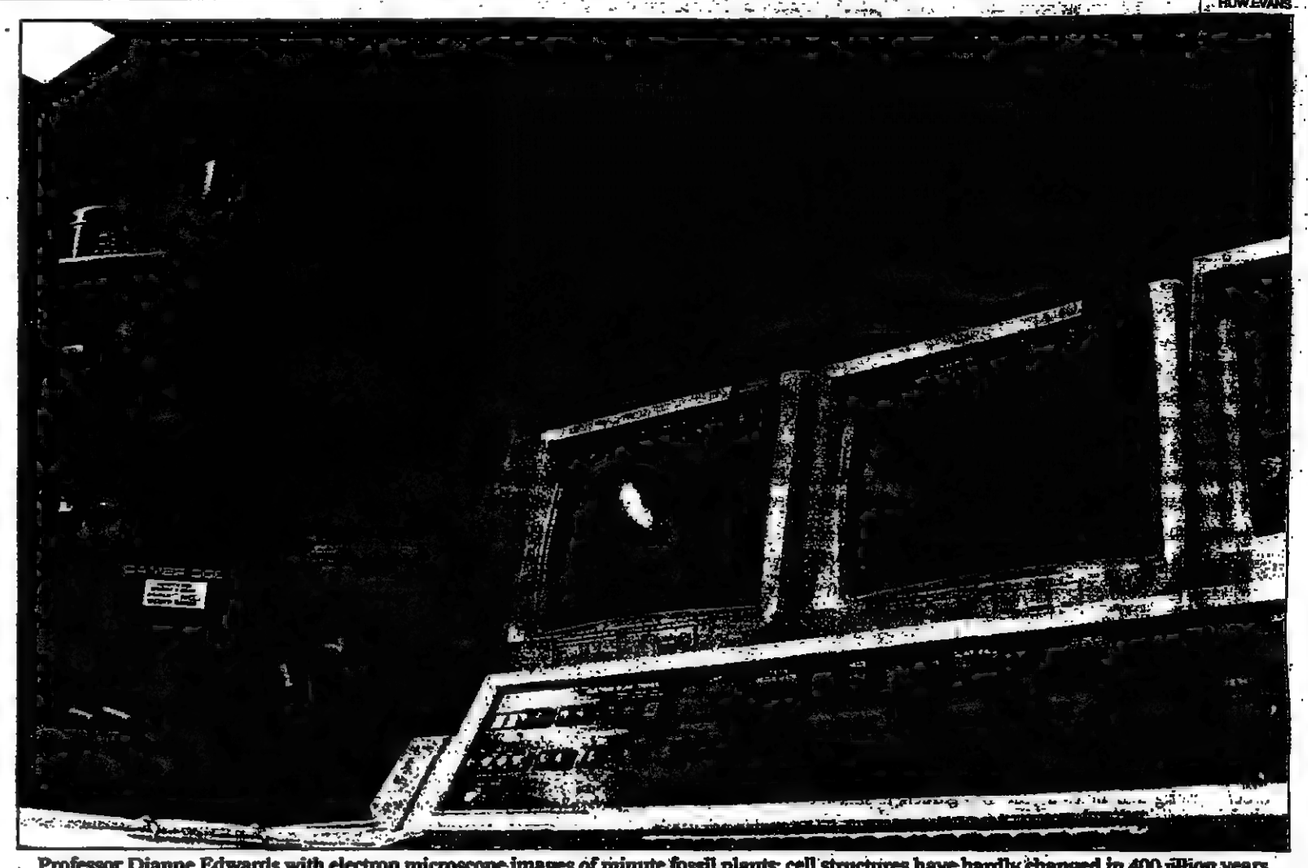
"This is evidence that the area was once a part of New York *and then torn apart in* the most recent land-mass movements," she says.

Her latest enthusiasm is coprolites or fossilised faeces. "They tell about us the diets of early land animals, such as millipedes, and the complexity of some of the earliest food webs." Surprisingly, there is no unequivocal fossil evidence for the existence of larger terrestrial plant-eaters during this time period and it seems *likely that carnivores actually* preceded herbivores onto land.

"The digestion of cellulose, the main ingredient of plant cell walls, by animals is a difficult process. Even today most animals just don't have the enzymes to do it and rely instead on microbial brokers, such as bacteria, to break down cellulose into acceptable compounds," she says.

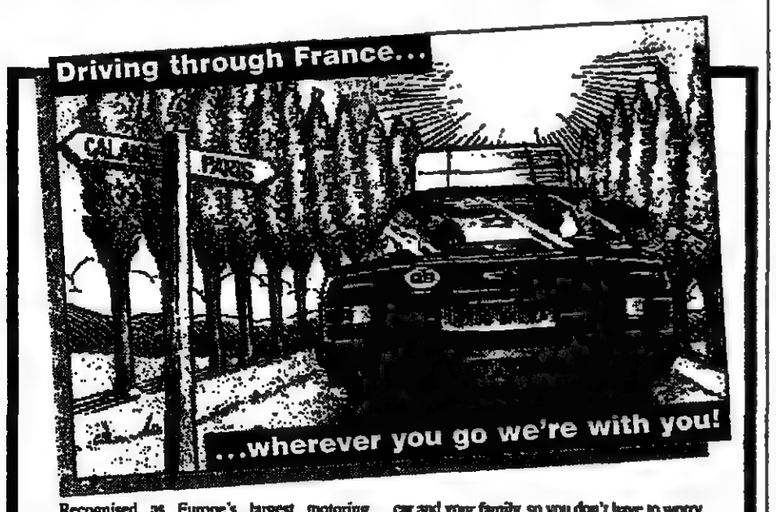
Professor Edwards has *spent her academic life at* Cardiff, starting out in 1969 with a temporary lectureship in botany. She admits she comes from the generation of women who put their husband's careers before their own. "People of my generation are the end of an age. It was much harder to be a woman in science then than now. If in ten years' time there aren't more women in my position, then there is something radically *wrong.*"

When not abroad, her spare time, is spent on, yes, more plants, but this time living ones. She is involved in a project to transform a 95-acre site in the extensive grounds of Middleton Hall, east of Carmarthen in South Wales into a national botanic garden for Wales, fit to rival Kew or Edinburgh, or rather than show off sendid isolated specimens, the idea is that this *garden woul be devoted to* whole ecosystems. "Imagine bamboos, gekos and magnolias growing on a Welsh hillside or a chance to explore a Newdampshire wood — in Wales!



HUW EVANS

Professor Dianne Edwards with electron microscope images of minute fossil plants: cell structures have hardly changed in 400 million years



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TIC6

New satellite helps the study of global warming

The Earth in focus

Environmentalists have never had it so good. First, the "son of Rio" climate conference in Berlin ended last week with an unexpected agreement between nations to cut emissions of greenhouse gases. And later this month ERS-2 — sister satellite of environmental satellite ERS-1 — will blast into orbit.

Scientists have plenty to be excited about. The first European Remote Sensing satellite, launched four years ago, captured some of the most memorable images in recent years. Among them were the smoke clouds from Kuwait's burning *oil wells during the Gulf War,* and the enormous landslips caused by the Landers earthquake in California in 1992.

But the £500 million satellite was destined for even greater things. It pioneered an exceptionally accurate way of measuring the sea surface temperature, crucial for monitoring any changes that could support or refute theories of global warming. The Along Track Scanning Radiometer (ATSR), developed at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire, works by scanning a patch of Earth directly beneath the satellite and a patch a small distance ahead. This means each patch is measured twice. Combining the two results for one patch allows scientists to cancel out cloud cover and obtain a more accurate temperature.

Trefor Edwards is managing both the ATSR experiment and the more advanced ATSR-2 (on board ERS-2) for the laboratory.

ANJANA AHUJA

"Global warming is such a hackneyed expression but we are desperate to see if there are any changes," he said. "The physics of climatology is very closely linked to sea surface temperature. It is the sea that heats most of the atmosphere and controls much of the dynamics."

Deforestation is another scourge that will be looked at closely. "Forests are disappearing at an alarming rate and this will give us even more detail about what is happening," said Mr Edwards.

The two satellites will operate in tandem for a short while, just to check that the instruments are giving consistent readings. Then ERS-2 will take over.

Among the other weapons in its armoury is GOME (Global Ozone Measuring Experiment), which will measure levels of ozone concentration in the stratosphere with unparalleled accuracy.

All ozone-measuring instruments look at how molecules in the atmosphere absorb sunlight. Different molecules absorb different wavelengths, and thus produce characteristic peaks in any absorption spectrum. But the variable nature of the Sun disrupts these readings. GOME measures this "rogue" solar spectrum simultaneously and removes it so that the true spectrum can emerge.

GOME will also better previous measurements because it can see beyond the ultraviolet "blind spot" at the poles. In late winter, the Sun is too low in the sky to allow UV light to reach polar regions. But this is precisely the time at which the ozone-destroying factors build up in the atmosphere. GOME *overcomes this blind spot by* looking in other wavelengths. Trace gases and aerosol particles can also be detected.

The ERS-2 will complete a near-polar orbit of the Earth every 100 minutes, and will generate a complete map of the Earth's surface every three days. Because the measurements will produce the equivalent of 5,600 pages of information a second, the satellite has to beam it to Earth almost as fast as it comes in. Seven radar stations around the world are standing by for the deluge.

Meanwhile, on night of April 20, Mr Howard and his colleagues will be concentrating on satellite technology for a different reason. "We are looking forward to watching the launch live on TV via the Astra 1B satellite," he said.

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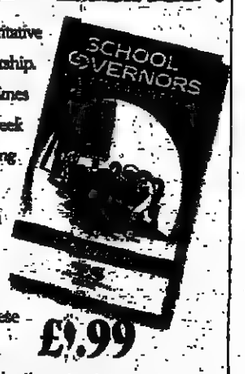

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Shattered idyll of a country garden

The havoc wreaked by burglars in an Oxfordshire village has focused attention on the blight of rural theft, says Giles Coren

With the serialisation of Joanna Trollope's *The Choir* still lighting up our television screens, and a feature-length film of *A Village Affair* promised for the Easter weekend, the provincial saga has never commanded so much attention. But something is amiss in Agaland, as a depressing robbery has highlighted in the Oxfordshire village of Sutton Courtenay.

The background to the story is pure Trollope. Jane Stevens, former wife of English Heritage Chairman Jocelyn Stevens and Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Margaret, lives at The Millhouse, an early-Georgian pile at the entrance to the village (the familiar epithet "sleepy" is too energetic to convey the somnolence of this two-pub hamlet). In the cottage appended to the house lives Rosemary, Mrs Stevens's long-serving housekeeper, and her husband Oscar, who remembers when the village bobby strolled around on flat feet cuffing errant young tykes like him round the earhole.

The house was formerly owned by Colonel and Mrs Laycock, and was sold on condition that the new incumbents respected the colonel's death-bed wish, for his beloved 8.5-acre garden to remain open to the public. Mrs Stevens was a keen gardener, and with the help of a troop of part-time assistants she has kept the lawns and flora, the mill-pond and the antique statuary in beautiful order, opening four times a year to about 1,500 visitors and providing a couple of thousand pounds annually for charity.

Visitors come not only from the local area but from abroad to see the famous garden, and Mrs Stevens is always there to offer information and guided tours. They roam free if they choose and are allowed to touch and photograph as much as they like.

On the morning of Monday, March 13, everything went wrong. Sitting in the kitchen of the house, warmed by the Aga (yes, *A Village Affair* was filmed here, in both the garden and the house), Mrs Stevens recounted her troubles.

"When two of the gardeners arrived for work they immediately noticed that the Cavalier was down, and a few hours later they saw that the lead heron was gone." I had seen the Cavalier, a 3ft-high statue in lead that the thieves had failed to wrest from its plinth. How they would have removed that much lead remains a mystery. Why the Cavalier's severed head was found next to his body is a greater one. Was it some belated statement of roundhead sympathy, some reinforcement of a 300-year-old regicide?

"I think it was just meanness," says Mrs Stevens, cradling the amputated head in her arms. "They realised they couldn't remove the statue, so they vandalised it. Anyway, Rosemary called the police immediately, but they said they couldn't come for a few days. A few days! If only they could have come sooner, so much could have been saved."

Worse was to come. On Wednesday Mrs Stevens, who was on holiday in the Bahamas, talked to her housekeeper on the telephone. "She said to me: 'I have to tell you, madam, that they broke in again last night.' This time they took a large marble bust, a cherub-like statue, and a Japanese bronze eagle [the whole lot was worth a few thousand pounds]. They had to saw off the eagle's leg, which remains attached to the column on which it was alighting. How can they sell that? A bronze eagle with a missing foot is not exactly inconspicuous."

> 'Every one of them had a tale of something like this — whether it was lawnmowers from a shed or a garden gnome'

The thought that upsets Mrs Stevens in particular is that the culprits have taken advantage of charity. "The thieves must have found out what was here by coming to one of the open days. They probably took pictures of the things they planned to steal. Then they took advantage of the public footpath, which runs round the back of the garden, to smash down the gate and remove the statues. I believe that people have a right to walk where they like in the countryside, but if your home backs onto a footpath you are in danger."

Mrs Stevens opened for the public last Sunday and had more than 500 visitors from the area. "Every one of them had a tale of something like this. Whether it was lawnmowers from a shed or a garden gnome, if their houses had not been burgled, their gardens had. This is happening in villages all over the country — the burglars know how much easier it is than the towns."

Here she takes the police to task. "If there had been some sort of police presence at the house after the first robbery, I don't think the second one would have happened. A policeman eventually came on Wednesday evening, and asked to be shown round the garden. But it was dark, so there wasn't much point. The local man from Didcot didn't come until Friday. They didn't ask for photographs of the statues or anything. That would never happen in a city."

Didcot police, for the record, point out that the local PC was off work on the days immediately after the robbery, and that when Rosemary first phoned it was to report the theft for insurance purposes rather than to demand a presence.

The decline of the village bobby has been universally lamented, and we know that in the country police are being asked to cover wider and wider areas. "It is time," says Mrs Stevens firmly, "that people in the countryside got together to do something. There is a great deal of despondency in the area because the police seem unable to do anything. I don't blame the PC, he has to cover other villages as well as Sutton Courtenay, and he can't be everywhere at once." Mrs Stevens suspects that thieves may be moving out into the country from the towns because they know the police response will be much slower.

And of course *The Antiques Road Show* and *Lovejoy* have brought the attention of burglars to the rich and unusual pickings available in country houses and their gardens.

"You try to do something nice for people," Mrs Stevens concludes wistfully, "and this sort of thing rather takes the wind out of one's sails. The statues were here when I moved in — they belong to the garden not to me. But it is I who must replace them. I don't know if I can afford to open for the public again. Even by speaking out I wonder whether I am helping people or opening myself up to more plunder." If this were really a story by Joanna Trollope it would probably end in tragedy, certainly in drama. So if a man you've never met before suddenly offers you a large Japanese eagle, missing one taloned claw, proceed with caution.

PETER TREVNOR

Broken image: Mrs Stevens with the remains of her Cavalier. "I think it was just meanness," she says

Heart-warming tales of justice

And now for the good news

IT WAS Martyn Lewis's fiftieth birthday last week, so, in his honour, I speak of good news. Actually, it has nothing to do with Mr Lewis; it is just that my head is turned by the amazing simultaneous appearance of two uplifting stories about the British penal system. Anybody who tries to talk me out of the resulting flicker of confidence had better watch out, or I will send my friend Martyn round to settle their hash.

The first, of course, is Eric Cantona's community service in which he coaches Manchester schoolchildren. "It is no soft option," says Ms Calderbank of the probation service, and indeed it isn't. For 30 weekday afternoons this temperamental locker-room philosopher, this pouting he-Bardot of ze pitch, will be in charge of a mob of excitable under-11s, mainly boys. There will be a total of 60 groups, 720 children over the whole period; Cantona will have each group for only one session, with barely time to learn their names let alone come to any sort of lazy accommodation with them.

LIBBY PURVES

As every teacher knows, the first encounters with a new class are the most emotionally draining. Every day of his community service, this spoilt, adored prima donna will have to confront two new sets of faces, and rapidly adapt himself to them. He will repeat the same instructions over and over again; he will learn things about his own talent, and probably improve his game by thinking back to the basics for the children's sake. They will not see him as an autograph-signing hero, but as a man expiating bad behaviour. The potential effect for good on the children, the footballer, and sport in general can hardly be overrated. I am dazzled.

I wish some equally imaginative and appropriate schemes could be worked out to replace prison for other convicts. Why weren't the Guinness defendants set to do the books for confused VAT victims, or sort out pension disputes between innumerate individuals and government departments trying to bilk them of 73p a week? Why are forgers and fraudsters allowed to loaf around in open prisons, instead of being available for booking by charity organisers to do mental-arithmetic tricks and lightning sketches at dull bazaars? Community service must widen its vision: Cantona shows the way.

The other uplifting story was that of Kevin Callan, the innocent man doing life for shaking a child to death. With one GCSE to his name, but by sheer persistence and determined application of his native intelligence, he studied medical and neurology textbooks, corresponded with their authors and at last built up — those experts confirm — an incontrovertible body of proof that the handicapped child died of a fall, not from violence. He had always said he was innocent, and so had the child's mother even after they parted; now he has proved it.

The reason Mr Callan's story is encouraging about the penal — not the judicial — system is that he was able to make this great journey into knowledge at all. This, remember, is a scruffy young lorry driver with no education, convicted of what seemed to be a casually yobbish act of violence towards a child who aggravated him. He was the worst, the lowest, the least-regarded class of prisoner, both by prison officers and by his fellows. Four years ago, Mr Callan carried the strongest stigma there is. Plenty of people would have liked to see him hanged, discarded as worthless.

YET from this abysmal status he has raised himself, and the system did not stop him. He was allowed neurology textbooks; he had time and light and permission to indulge in what must have seemed a stupid obsession. He may have been jeered at, and no doubt we shall hear his account of that; but was not prevented, as in some countries he assuredly would be. Nobody brainwashed him with compulsory psychiatry or drugs, insisting he was "in denial"; nobody took away his notebook. He was able to correspond with distinguished strangers on the other side of the world about his ideas.

So Mr Callan's most important human rights were intact throughout his ordeal. He has reason to be bitter about the trial; he lost four years of liberty; but our prison system left him enough dignity to use his mind at a very high level indeed. He can be proud of himself; but I think that his prison governor can be a bit proud, too.

Face to face with the ultimate cyber-guru

Joanna Pitman meets a prophet of the technological future — and finds herself digitally challenged

"I was always aware of being a little deficient in what the computing priesthoods refer to as the poetry of the microchip, but it was more than a little disconcerting to discover on meeting Nicholas Negroponte that I am not only digitally homeless, impoverished and undernourished, but I am also categorised unambiguously as a member of the technological Third World.

"Computers are going to have an increasingly dramatic effect on the quality of life through their application in science, work, entertainment and every aspect of living," he says. "They create a different lifestyle. They change the rhythms of work and life and allow you to have more free time, to be more mobile. You liberate yourself when you become digital".

Still in a state of advanced mental befuddlement, I enquired gingerly about digits and cyberspace. A wintery smile lights up his features as he assures me that the fastest-growing group joining the Internet consists of people of grandparenting age.

Negroponte is a leading expert on multi-media. In fact he claims to have invented it, but being digitally challenged myself I can only guess about that. He did, however, fund the Media Laboratory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, of which he is now director, and he has just published *Being Digital*, a deceptively dry-looking book which is actually a ripping good read, designed to give those of us of a duller technological intelligence an idea of what it might be like to become a member of the digerati. Cyberspace, bits, pixels, they are all in there and are even quite appetising when presented as a means of liberation from our most onerous burdens.

We should expect all sorts of liberation. "It won't be long before students of physics can be taught by Albert Einstein. The potential for new applications of technology is unlimited and developments are happening all the time," Negroponte says.

It also won't be long before we will have ditched our televisions and will follow the football by watching 8in-high players running around on our very own floor, passing a tiny football back and forth. "This model is the opposite of early virtual-reality thinking. All the resolution is provided everywhere. Wherever you look, you will see 3-D pixels floating in space."

It sounds clever. But it gets cleverer. "Tiny computers will appear in all sorts of everyday objects. We might wear computerised shoes that tell us where to go and belts that tell us when to stop eating. There may, in the more distant future, be computer displays sold by the gallon and painted on to any available space, and CD-Roms that are edible. Alternatively, we may simply be living inside our computers by then."

Negroponte speaks as a man who knows. Far from your bespectacled, sallow-faced teenage computer nerd, he has been digitally liberated for decades. He gained degrees in architecture and computer-aided design in 1966 and from there was swiftly lured into the realms of the computer. Evidently it keeps him young because, transcending all his loves and obsessions, is the computer and its future — shiny new ideas which he develops, maintains, and cherishes with a dedication that verges on the sacramental.

Every year he covers 300,000 miles, ricocheting around the globe to deliver at least 500 lectures, many of them servicing the debt of the 94 corporate sponsors of his media lab. At all times he carries with him at least two laptops and bags of clobber, including batteries weighing 10lb and a vast assortment of plugs for international hotels. He is now on a five-week tour taking in Tokyo, Amsterdam, London twice, Paris, Switzerland twice, Dusseldorf and New Zealand.

Negroponte: mapping the future

"Punishing? No no. I enjoy it. That's the luxury of technology, because I can couple my work with my life. I have computers with me all the time and I use Internet wherever I happen to be. I spend about three hours a day checking my e-mail and I'm a bit compulsive about time-wasting. On an international flight I like to use every available minute on line, which is why I have to carry around all these batteries."

Clearly there is still a long way to go and much turmoil in cyberspace to be tackled along the way. Nobody appears to control the Internet, for example, and so the scope for misuse is huge. "The average age of Internet users is 23," Negroponte says. "Given that most politicians are over the 35-year-old threshold which divides those brought up on computers and those not, it is not surprising that governments are reacting badly. They are nervous because legal controls are difficult to impose. And because we don't know where cyberspace is, it cannot be patrolled.

"There have already been several cases in the United States where an Internet user, working within the law of his own state, has been arrested for breaching different laws in a neighbouring state where his messages were picked up. With the genetic evolution of new systems and ideas, the dangers are potentially legion: but then so are the advantages of empowerment to the digitally fluent.

"The true value of a network is less about information and more about community. The information superhighway is more than a short cut to every book in the library. It is creating a totally new global social fabric."

Finding myself practising vigorous yesmanship in response to concepts of which I have only the vaguest clue, I suspect that I shall only ever meekly follow where Negroponte dares to tread.

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Matthew Parris

■ Underclass or just unfortunates? We seem unable to do anything about society's misfits except pity them

Coming up the stairs from a London Underground ticket hall last week I encountered, standing on the pavement, one of those people who hawk *The Big Issue*. This is a magazine sold on the capital's streets by homeless men and women. Sellers keep a proportion of the price, and provide a service.

The magazine is good value: 60p and unglossy. Many respected British writers contribute articles free. The young magazine seller was calling out "*Big Issue! Big Issue!*" in a not-too-confident voice as I emerged into the spring sunlight. He was standing by the pedestrian railings. I had time to look at him carefully before going over to proffer my money.

He was an undernourished spotty youth in ill-fitting clothes, trousers an inch too short. His arms and wrists were painfully thin, his neck so thin it looked as if one sharp blow would knock his head off. His eyes were watery blue, and his pale, knotted face bore an expression of permanent anxiety, old before his time.

His hair, ill-cut as though by a friend with scissors, was fair, lifeless, patchy: an unevenly sown lawn — lacking nutrients or sun, it had not properly taken. Unshaven, there was nothing you could call a beard, just tufts. I sensed from his features, speech and movements that he was a bit simple: part of that pitiful band on the margins of viability "in the community", without any community, in London.

He could have been anything between 18 and 25, one of those youths that have never had a youth, but moved from a neglected, abused childhood into some wretched travesty of independence as an adult.

He just looked completely bashed-about. But not as a fighter looks. He was anything but a survivor, not canny, not cunning: no warrior from that hardbitten, street-fighting tribe that cities also produce, well able to take care of themselves and winners in their way. This was just a loser. He looked only confused. You need to be so quick in London, and he was not quick. He was like some broken-winged chick that the fox hasn't found yet.

I went up and handed him a £1 coin. With jerky movements he gave me my *Big Issue* and tried to work out the change. I said, "Keep the change." He said, "Thank you, fellow." He said "fellow", I think, out of some desire to answer a friendly approach, but not quite getting it right. Perhaps someone had told him he shouldn't say "sir" and someone else had told him it's rude to say "mate".

I said "all the best then", and moved off. "It's a nice day, isn't it, fellow?" he called to my departing back.

And I felt so completely, dejectedly, sorry for him. What hope, what possible hope, did he have, finished before he's ever started, in London? Manual labour, you say? No, he was not very strong at all. Don't kid yourself that this was some young innocent who only needed a bit of kindness and a break to kick-start him into a self-respecting job. It was far, far too late for that. He was broken: broken, probably, beyond retrieval by the time he was ten. I really don't believe in the possibilities of improving people once they have grown up. I wish I did, but I don't.

More than 70 years ago Margot Asquith wrote: "If you think you are going to influence the kind of fellow who has 'never had a chance, poor devil', you are profoundly mistaken. One can only influence the strong characters in life, not the weak; and it is the height of vanity to suppose that you can make an honest man of anyone."

> He was probably broken beyond retrieval by the age of ten

This youth was *probably not* an "honest" or even potentially "good" young man. He was a nothing young man. He looked like the kind of shoplifters who always get caught, the abject creatures you see cornered by the store detective or handcuffed by the police, a hopeless expression on their pinched faces; and, absurdly, you feel on their side and will them to make a run for it. They drift from institution to magistrates' court to hostel to council bedsit and back to court. They cost millions, yet always as an irritant, never as a threat. There are, as Tony Blair has observed, "*no votes in them*".

We have talked such gibberish about the underclass. We have exaggerated it and thus mis-diagnosed it. The problem about people in the underclass is not that they are a threat or that there are millions of them, but that they are no threat, and they are not very many. This young man was no threat to anything but the felicity of my urban prospect.

I wandered over the road, trying not to cry. I detest sentiment which does not point to action. The advancing years are not bringing the intellectual direction or emotional detachment for which as a boy I hoped: only, these days, unrequitable feelings, moral bafflement, and engulfing waves of vast, useless sympathy for people. Just before his final madness, Nietzsche rushed out into the street, flung his arms round the neck of a horse he saw being whipped, and burst into tears. It did the horse no good at all. Nietzsche had no plan for horses. I felt the same stupid, hopeless, self-indulgent pity for this young man.

Graham Greene once observed that you can spot a really cruel man: they cry in cinemas, he said.

A generation of instinctive Conservatives feel that the recovery will not benefit them personally

Electoral alarm clock rings for the Tories

William Rees-Mogg

The Prime Minister's biggest problem is one of political psychology: he has to reverse a negative national mood. This rejection of the Conservative Government is sometimes expressed in an exaggerated form. Conservative support has fallen to 11 per cent in the Scottish local elections. In the press some of the criticisms are hysterical: "It is not enough for a country that has become shamed by the indignity of it all ... the air must be cleared of a putrefying party clinging to power," states the leading article in yesterday's *Observer*. What nonsense.

If this were so exceptionally bad a Government, it is unlikely that the Opposition would have moved across so far in the direction of Tory policies. No one questions that Tony Blair is by far the most right-wing leader Labour has ever had. His move to the right has so far been surprisingly successful. He has reassured the middle class, who are voting Labour in unprecedented numbers. His own natural supporters have been delighted by the prospect of Labour winning back power. He has even gained the alarming endorsement of Paul Johnson. This Labour movement to the right would not have been necessary if the Government were now following deeply unpopular policies. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Conservatives must be *doing something that is at least* potentially popular.

The Conservatives' official line is that their unpopularity is mainly caused by disunity, particularly on Europe. This has the double advantage of putting pressure on the Euro-rebels and of being something that can be put right before the next election. So far as I can tell, it is not true. Ordinary voters do not put Europe very high in their list of anxieties; some at least of the Euro-rebels are well liked. Teresa Gorman, in particular, is regarded as a courageous and outspoken woman — perhaps eccentric, but a torch in the cold grey fog of modern British politics.

John Major has to contend with a political cycle which has produced an anti-Conservative landslide three times already in this century, in 1906, 1945 and 1966. In each case the Conservatives had been the predominant party in the previous 15 years, though in 1906 and 1966, they had already left office. In each case the Opposition of the day had reassured the electorate and was not seen as frightening, although in 1945 the Labour programme was totally socialist. It is as though the British electorate had a built-in clock; they are themselves conservatives, and normally prefer to elect Conservative governments. After ten years they begin to feel bored, and after 15 years they cannot wait to throw the Conservatives out. If this is the primary psychological reason why the electorate has turned against the Government, there is not *much Mr Major can do about it. He* may have a non-charismatic public personality, but much the same rejection happened to Winston Churchill and Benjamin Disraeli, two of the most charismatic leaders the Tories have ever produced. Charisma might now make little difference.

There are other reasons for this negative feeling. Virginia Bottomley has been criticised for behaving too much like a civil servant and too little like a politician. That criticism could justly be applied to most of the Cabinet, including the Prime Minister. Opposition is a better training ground than government. The politician in office is like a passenger on a great liner; in opposition the politician is like the crew on a small yacht. It is the only way to learn the seamanship that the present front bench has largely forgotten, or never mastered.

The Conservatives are probably right in their hope that improvement in the economy will produce some gain in the polls between now and the next election. Falling unemployment and low inflation support their claims that economic policy is making progress. Yet all the polls still *show that a majority of people* would have more confidence in economic policy under the Labour Party. The Scottish economy is a conspicuous success, yet this has not stopped the catastrophic decline in the Conservative share of the vote. Good economic statistics may help to limit the loss of seats at the next election, but they are not likely to do more than that.

The recession itself must not be forgotten. Many people are still suffering from what happened in the early 1990s. House prices are still 20 per cent below their peak, and perhaps only half the level that home owners of the late 1980s expected them to have reached by now. High street shops are still depressed or have been closed. The small building industry is still depressed — people are not moving house. The banks are laying off tens of thousands of staff, and are themselves deeply unpopular. The massacre of middle managements goes on. All of this has to be offset against the better economic news. Few people feel optimistic about their personal or family finances; many people feel much worse off than they did in 1987.

The recession damaged the family life of the middle class in a way that had never happened before. Small but successful businesses went down; banks foreclosed; managers lost their jobs; wives who had been working for a second salary found themselves the main earners; children had to be removed from private school; sons and daughters found it hard to get into their first adult jobs. This family pain hit the lives of women particularly hard, often at a time when they were looking forward to a comfortable middle age.

All of this is blamed on the Government, which had urged people in the 1980s to start these small businesses and buy their own houses, yet seemed to do little to protect the businesses or to prevent houses developing a negative equity. The Tories led the middle class into what proved to be an economic trap; for that they have not been forgiven. The gates of the trap were only prised open when Britain was forced out of the exchange-rate mechanism — against the Government's will.

Even though there has been some recovery in the statistics, the early 1990s are still remembered as a period of financial disaster for millions of middle class people who had voted Conservative. Many of them are now too old to benefit from the recovery. The manager who has taken early retirement, the small builder whose bank facilities were withdrawn and the former home-owner left with a mortgage debt after selling the house will not see their own lives improve with the recovery. They were Conservative voters; they feel that the Government was to blame for a large part of their misfortune; they resent the fact that they have never even had an apology.

John Major will therefore find it very difficult to regain support from this part of the electorate. No one can yet know how the English and Welsh local elections will go. Probably the Welsh elections will be as bad as the Scottish, another explosion of Celtic resentment. In England, some long-term Conservative voters do seem to be coming out of hibernation, or at least stirring in their winter sleep. If one is a Conservative by conviction, and a great number of English voters are, there is little point in turning out one's local councillor in order to protest against Britain joining the ERM in 1990. The English local elections will no doubt be bad for the Conservatives, but they may not be as terrible as the Scottish or Welsh.

John Major could well survive, if these English elections do indeed prove a little less bad than present forecasts say. His rivals have not strengthened their claims to leadership in the past year. He is slightly more popular in the polls than his party. The current form forecast is that John Major will lead the Conservative Party into the next election, and lose it.

Who will make the first team?

Peter Riddell on the prospects for the other summer game: reshuffling the Cabinet

Cricket, rather than politics, was, and remains, John Major's first love. He often *sounds like the captain of a* team going through a rough patch. Complaining of the burdens of leadership, he is frustrated by the dropped catches and reckless strokes of some players, as well as an often fractious dressing room. After a big defeat, there are calls for fresh faces. Mr Major's dilemma, like Mike Atherton's over the past year, is that, whatever the weaknesses now, there are few obvious replacements.

The flaws in the existing team are readily apparent, even leaving aside yesterday's bizarre resignation of a parliamentary private secretary of whom hardly anyone had heard. Last July's reshuffle has had a mixed record. There have been pluses. Brian Mawhinney is a forceful, if at times prickly, Transport Secretary, and Robert Cranborne is soothing their lordships. Gillian Shephard's conciliatory approach has built bridges over the national curriculum, although, as she warned, there is now renewed warfare over tight school budgets. Jonathan Aitken has charm and political astuteness, but remains a risky investment because of his past business links in the Middle East.

The main problem is the party chairmanship. Jeremy Hanley was appointed because other candidates were ruled out. Michael Heseltine did not want the job, and anyway was regarded as not up to the demands of the "chicken and peas" circuit; David Hunt was opposed by the whips; Virginia Bottomley was seen as too school-mistressy; Mrs Shephard had not shown sufficient political clout; Mr Aitken was too much of a gamble; and Ian Lang could not be spared from Scotland.

The choice therefore fell on Mr Hanley, a solid minister of state, largely on the grounds that his openness and good humour would go down well with the Tory rank-and-file, as they have. But the Prime Minister should have been warier of his inexperience of top-level politics and of dealing with the media. Mr Hanley has over-compensated by talking too much, and has consequently *slipped up*.

The other main errors of the reshuffle were retaining Mrs Bottomley at Health, and appointing Stephen Dorrell to National Heritage. Having decided to drop John Patten from Education, the Prime Minister was advised that he should not also make a change at Health. While most ministers sympathise with the thrust of what Mrs Bottomley is doing, they believe she has got the politics wrong by appearing insensitive. Mr Dorrell, a past junior health minister, might have been the right choice then. Kenneth Clarke wanted Mr Dorrell to stay at the Treasury, moving up from Financial Secretary to Chief Secretary, but that was seen as risking too much of a *pro-European cabal. For all his* acuteness, and interest in unglamorous isses like tourism, Mr Dorrell has lacked the necessary extrovert qualities.

Mr Major will remedy these defects in his summer reshuffle. It will be no easier to find a party chairman than it was last summer, but Mr Hanley could do rather well at National Heritage, with Mr Dorrell at Health. Much depends on whether Douglas Hurd stays, which Mr Major must wish, since the Foreign Secretary is a pillar of this Administration.

Mr Clarke will continue as Chancellor, even though his outspokenness tests Mr Major's patience, and Michael Howard will probably remain Home Secretary since, despite his mauling by the courts, the police and prison officers, he is giving Tory *activists what they want, and he is*, above all, loyal, as he showed again yesterday. Michael Portillo's stock is rising. He is now more careful, and avoids any hint of disloyalty. Then, there are largely unappreciated Cabinet stalwarts: Tony Newton, the ultimate insider; Peter Lilley, the most effective right-winger at Social Security; and Sir Patrick Mayhew at Northern Ireland.

The timing of the Scott inquiry into arms sales to Iraq may influence the prospects of William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell. There is already resentment in Whitehall at the breadth of criticisms in the drafts seen by those named, but it will be hard for the Government to shrug off the report. Mr Waldegrave, like John Gummer, may anyway be nearing the end of his Cabinet innings. Scott aside, there is limited scope for changes, not least because few outsiders look ready for the first team. Gerry Malone, number two at Health, is unknown and a long shot for chairman, while Michael Ancram, like Mr Malone a former Scottish MP, could be rewarded for his work in Northern Ireland. David Davis has toughness and no shortage of ambition, while Sir George Young and Roger Freeman are solid rather than exciting. William Hague is attracting praise from the top, but he is likely to be given more time to gain experience.

However, there is little evidence that reshuffles make much difference to a Government's standing with voters. Shifting Mr Hanley and Mrs Bottomley will, of itself, not win back many disillusioned former Tories. What matters is the sense of direction, freshness and unity. Despite predictable rumblings in the Sunday papers, any hopes of a revival could be undermined by a divisive leadership contest. That is why a concerted operation to back Mr Major will be launched after May's local elections.

Mr Major is often underrated, especially when he is in a fight. He may be mercurial, but he is tenacious. Remember, he grew up as a supporter of Surrey during its run of seven county cricket championships in the 1950s, which owed much to the ruthless leadership of Stuart Surridge, one of Mr Major's heroes.

In a recent and very personal speech at the Surrey club's 150th anniversary dinner, Mr Major noted the similarities between cricket and politics: "The game is uncertain. The career is chancy. But they both have *their own charm. Politics is often* about nightmares. Cricket mainly is about dreams."

McMusic

THE DUCHESS OF YORK'S predilection for middle-of-the-road music is well chronicled. But there is startling evidence that her taste has slipped towards the piped music beloved of DIY stores, *airport lounges and shopping* precincts.

So taken was she with the soothing sounds emanating from the speakers on a recent visit to the Windsor branch of McDonald's (a "fast-food" emporium), that she later phoned to ask for a CD of the music, according to the forthcoming issue of *Classic FM Magazine*. She was referred to McDonald's suppliers, TSC Music Systems, a British background music company. Its albums include *A Garland of Favourite Christmas Tunes* and *Piano and Accordion Tunes creating that Parisian Feel*.

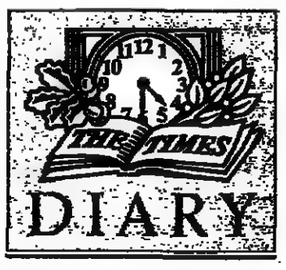
James Abdool, marketing director of TSC, refuses to disclose the specific nature of the request, but confirms that he readily dispatched the CD. "I've still got her letter," he says proudly, "and we've also had requests from the Al Fayed brothers."

Background music is described by the Muzak Corporation of Seattle as "a superior business music product". But it was labelled "a criminal offence" by the pianist Alfred Brendel.

The Duchess of York, who was described by Lord Charteris, the Queen's former Private Secretary, as "vulgar, vulgar, vulgar", seems to be living up to the "v" word, and clearly sides with the Muzak Corporation.

'We're not lost, we must be approaching London'

● *BBC2's* The Late Show *may have been axed, but the howling wolf that introduces it may be saved by the skin of its very big teeth. He, or perhaps she (no one is certain), has a fan club. "We get lots of requests for his photograph," a fond spokeswoman tells me, "and we have had letters saying that people will be sorry to see him go. Maybe he will be found a new home on another show. He deserves it."*



Aldiss & more

BRIAN ALDISS, the best-selling science-fiction author, may re-encounter some of his earliest written works if they are discovered where he buried them — in a biscuit-tin in the grounds at his *alma mater*, West Buckland School, Exmoor. As a 17-year-old, he used to write short stories for his school chums and charge them a penny a read.

But, he admits, they were "raunchy tales of a criminal and erotic nature", and he lived in constant fear of their discovery by the masters. "I used to bury them at the end of every term and dig them up at the beginning of the next. If they had been discovered I would have been beaten and expelled. Of course I couldn't take them home either. I left the last batch buried there when I left the school."

Teachers have promised a thorough search when the summer term starts. "I should be proud of my juvenile writing, but to be honest I rather hope they aren't found," says the author, nervously. Delving schoolboys, however, may like to know that the incriminating stories are buried somewhere in the plantation near the swimming-pool.

Masquerade

NOW EVERYONE can be Michael Portillo. The teenage glossy popular music magazine *Select* is offering a free mask of the Employment Secretary with every copy of its latest issue.

A very smiley picture of Portillo, slightly bedewed with perspiration, has been selected for the mask, which has cut-out eyes and comes with a selection of other masks, including one of the actor Burt Reynolds. "Portillo and Reynolds are both attractive to the more mature woman, but I hope they will not frighten those of a more fragile disposition," says the magazine's editor, Andrew Harrison. "We are stressing that people should not try to rob post offices disguised as an MP."

All change

The new restaurant at the Royal Festival Hall, known as the People's Palace, is taking advantage of its proximity to the EuroStar terminal at Waterloo station. "We hope to be able to lure people who get off the EuroStar with foreign money left over in their pockets," says the manager, "so we will be accepting a variety of international currencies."

Coast guard

WARRIOR THE GLADIATOR — real name Mike Ahearne — has just agreed to adopt yet another persona. Throughout the year he will be dressing up as the sea god Neptune for the National Trust's save the coastline campaign, Enterprise Neptune.

Neptune: no sea weed

As he boasts a 55-inch chest and a 20-inch neck, his seaweed and shell-encrusted costume has had to be tailor-made for him. "We already had a Neptune costume, but as Warrior is twice the size of the previous chap, we had to scrap it," the National Trust tells me.

"The Royal Opera House prop-making department had to make a special cast for his enormous breast-plate."

Lady's first

THE publication of William Golding's final, posthumous novel, due in June, is keenly awaited by scholars. It marks a significant departure for the novelist, who died two years ago. For the first time his narrator is a woman.

The book, *The Double Tongue*, will be one of Golding's shortest works, at only 165 pages. And it is unfinished. On page 78, the editor notes: "A passage of manuscript is missing at this point."

Nonetheless, Faber's chairman, Matthew Evans, insists the book is "pretty good". The female viewpoint he attributes to a suggestion from Golding's wife: "He was in India on a British Council tour. His wife, sitting in the audience, asked him why he had never written as a woman. It was a case of, 'I hear what you're saying, Lady Golding'."

P·H·S

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WHO GOES THERE?

The ID card is a foolish idea for ministers to pursue

The Government's consultation paper on identity cards, expected shortly, is bound to generate a fierce controversy. Those who believe that compulsory cards would make the streets safer will criticise the voluntary scheme that ministers are thought to favour. Civil libertarians will object that any system of ID cards restricts basic freedoms and encourages the State's worst authoritarian instincts. Voters will wonder why the Government is launching such a contentious policy at such a low point in its electoral fortunes.

The libertarian doctrine that no power should be surrendered from the citizen to the State without clear justification is a sound general principle. What ministers have conspicuously failed to prove is that ID cards do, indeed, justify such a surrender. Their advocacy of voluntary cards merely confuses the issue. Last year, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, predicted that "in time carrying your ID card would seem as natural as carrying a credit card is at the moment." The implication of this is that the Government would indeed like to see a universal scheme evolve over time. But what, if any, would its benefits be?

The weakest claim made in favour of ID cards is that their use would "bring Britain into line with Europe". This is an observation of fact rather than a persuasive argument. It is true that identity cards have long been in use in continental countries, compulsory in Germany, for instance, since 1871. But drawing this comparison does nothing for the case to introduce them in Britain. The cultural and political traditions of these islands are quite different to those across the Channel. Last month, seven EU countries abolished their internal frontier controls under the Schengen agreement. As a result, their citizens will find it all the more important to carry identification and may be subject to spot checks inside their frontiers. Britons, in contrast, have long believed in strong border controls and — as a corollary — the right to move freely within those borders. Each nation is entitled to choose which liberties it values most.

In doing so, we must judge whether crime would be significantly reduced by the carrying of ID cards. Many citizens would accept this encroachment upon their personal liberty if they believed it would prevent crime or assist the capture of criminals. Most will remain properly sceptical that it would do so. It is possible that identity cards would reduce petty misdemeanours, such as the underage purchase of alcohol or cigarettes. Yet it seems highly unlikely that serious crime would be much reduced by this new bureaucracy. Ministers have long admitted that terrorism would be little affected by ID cards. Given the technological expertise of today's professional criminals, it would not be long before a healthy trade in counterfeit cards developed. Those most affected by an ID card scheme would be members of the law-abiding majority who dutifully carried their plastic identification as a tedious duty of citizenship.

Here lies the scheme's greatest danger. If it became compulsory, it would create as much crime as it stopped by introducing a new category of criminal — the ordinary citizen not carrying his or her card. Even if the scheme remained voluntary, it could generate considerable hostility to the criminal justice system among those most disposed to support it. When Lord Chief Justice Goddard abolished the ID cards which had been used in this country during and immediately after the war, he observed that such a system "tends to make people resentful of the acts of police". That is a tendency no Tory minister could possibly wish to encourage. The Government should think hard before pursuing this perilous course.

THE ADVOCATE'S DEVIL

The Lord Chancellor must hold firm on conditional fees

Great pressure is being brought to bear on the Lord Chancellor to redraft his proposals on conditional fees for lawyers, popularly known as his "no win, no fee" scheme. Lord Steyn, the law lord, dislikes the proposals. Lords Ackner and Simon of Glaisdale, both retired law lords, find them utterly repugnant. Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor, has inveighed against them, calling them "evil" and "immoral". Observers are right to be astonished: these sages of the legal establishment have elected as their target a scheme that will make justice affordable for a wide swath of society, and make litigation easier for the middle class.

Under the 1990 Courts and Legal Services Act, Lord Mackay of Clashfern is empowered to lay regulations before Parliament which will enable citizens to engage a lawyer under a conditional fee agreement. In the drafting of these regulations, Lord Mackay has consulted a wide range of people, including all the professional bodies concerned: he has done so meticulously, which explains in part the inordinate length of time it has taken to prepare this admirable scheme. Yet further delays are threatened by the continuing opposition of those in the House of Lords who hold that conditional fees would be contrary to public policy and destructive of the moral fabric of our legal system.

Their opposition is both out of touch and alarmist. The drastic reduction of access to legal aid has left an increasing number of people stranded. The middle class is too rich to qualify for legal aid and often too poor to consider litigation. Conditional fees, as envisaged in Section 58 of the 1990 Act, are by no means a panacea: but by reducing serious financial risk, they should make justice more accessible to those who are today intimidated by the costs of litigation. It is remarkable that Lord Ackner — for it is his opposition to Lord Mackay's reforms which has been the most feverish — should fail to see the merit of promoting cost-effective access to courts at a time of financial pressure on legal aid.

Lord Mackay must resist pressure to dilute his reforms. As Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead said in his polished maiden speech in the House of Lords, a proposal that "would improve access to justice should be favourably received unless there are truly compelling reasons why that should not be so". The reasons advanced by Lord Ackner and others are unconvincing. They are based, at bottom, on a belief that it would be grubby for lawyers to charge their clients an "uplift" fee if their action is successful in court; and the prospect of the "Americanisation" of British justice, and of "ambulance-chasers" is invoked with trepidation. The opposition to Lord Mackay fears that this increase in fees would swallow a substantial proportion of the client's damages. Yet as the Lord Chancellor has stated on numerous occasions, the "uplift" will be related to work done, not damages recovered: it is this principle which would distinguish the new conditional fees from American "contingency" fees.

The increase in fees will be expressed as a ratio of the lawyer's normal charges, and there is great disagreement over the proportions. After initially proposing a 10 per cent increase, Lord Mackay raised the figure first to 20 per cent and later to 100 per cent. Critics such as Lord Steyn would prefer a reversion to 20 per cent. It is unlikely, however, that this would be a sufficiently compelling incentive to lawyers: no win, after all, will mean no fees. If a doubling of fees is thought to be excessive, then 20 per cent is too little. The prospective increase must be high enough to tempt lawyers to take on cases in which the client is less than certain of victory: this is where the interests of the citizen lie. Lord Mackay has so far performed his role with courage and conviction. He must now repel this latest attack by a twitchy legal establishment.

STOP THE DAM

Portugal must protect the art of our common prehistory

Two hundred and fifty miles northeast of Lisbon lies the valley of the Coa river. Thousands of Portuguese protesters are preparing to travel to the area over Easter — and to the somnolent town of Vila Nova de Foz Coa in particular — to remonstrate against a scheme of quite astonishing unwisdom. The Portuguese Government is proceeding with plans to construct a dam on the local river which will inundate Europe's largest open-air site of Paleolithic rock art.

The plans for the dam were hatched by Electricidade de Portugal, the state-owned power company, with almost no opportunity for serious public debate. No truly independent inquiries were conducted into the dam's cultural and ecological impact, and arguments that Portugal could purchase electricity more cheaply from abroad were brushed aside. The Portuguese Government, it appears, is driven on the matter not by reason, nor by a concern for public opinion, but by the fuel of modernist delusions found more commonly in the Third World.

As we wrote last month, the primordial engravings of the Coa Valley are not the heritage of Portugal alone: the art of the earliest Everyman is the common heritage of us all. The protesters who will soon congregate in the valley deserve the most active support of ordinary citizens in other countries of the European Union. There may be debate and disagreement, both at the margins and in the detail, over what constitutes European values: yet there can be no argument over whether the building of the Coa dam, and the subsequent loss of part of our shared history, is in flagrant breach of those values.

The rock carvings of the Coa Valley are not merely of aesthetic significance. The ancient oxen with their delicately curving horns, the vibrant horses with their bucket-shaped snouts, and the charmingly fat goats are all "documents" of man's long and tortured process of civilisation. The Portuguese protesters — disconcerted by Lisbon's deafness to their objections, and dismayed by the ceaseless work at the site of the dam — are moved both by a sense of awe and by an historical temper.

Their numbers grow, as they add their criticism to that of Unesco and of Portugal's own President, Mario Soares. This is not a simple case of jobs versus art. The rock carvings would be a source of income for the region and could be worth as much, in commercial terms, as the dam. The Government of Anibal Cavaco Silva, however, still insists on its vandal's project. The country goes to the polls in October. None of those who protest at the Coa Valley — ordinary citizens all — will vote for the dam.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Time to review prisons policy

From Professor Sean McConville and others

Sir, Tomorrow, April 10, marks the centenary of the submission to Home Secretary Herbert Asquith of the Gladstone Committee's Report on Prisons. This committee propagated the twin philosophies of deterrence and rehabilitation, which greatly influenced penal affairs for much of the 20th century. In recent years, however, both the question of rehabilitation and the issue of deterrence have become highly problematic, as has their relationship. The use of punishment by society needs careful consideration, as does the value of imprisonment.

The present state of our prison system, as chronicled in the penetrating reports of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, Judge Stephen Tumim, is such as to cause confusion in the minds of many members of the public, and even in the Prison Service itself. The valuable recommendations of the 1990-91 inquiry into prison disturbances by Lord (then Lord Justice) Woolf proposed a civilised regime for prisons, and justice for prisoners, but these objectives have now, to some extent, been overtaken by other agendas.

Lord Woolf's inquiry, moreover, did not have the remit to relate its findings to sentencing policy and practice. We think the time is ripe for an overview, on the scale of the Gladstone inquiry, to propound a sound and authoritative penal philosophy for the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN McCONVILLE,
ALLEN of ABBEYDALE
(Permanent Under Secretary, Home Office, 1966-72),
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER
(Member, Home Secretary's Advisory Council on the Penal System, 1966-78),
ANTHONY E. BOTTOMS
(Wolfson Professor of Criminology, University of Cambridge),
JAMES CALLAGHAN
(Home Secretary, 1967-70),
RALPH GIBSON
(Lord Justice of Appeal, 1985-94),
JOHN K. HARDING
(Chief Probation Officer, Inner London),
JOHN HUNT
(Chairman, Parole Board for England and Wales, 1967-74),
TERENCE MORRIS
(Professor Emerius, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of London),
BRENDAN O'FRIEL
(Chairman, Prison Governors' Association),
RUNCIE,
c/o University of London,
Queen Mary and Westfield College,
Faculty of Laws,
Mile End Road, E1.
April 9.

Easter offerings

From Mr Charles Wylie

Sir, One of the more charming traditions of the Church of England used to be that of digging a little deeper into one's pocket on Easter Day because the offering was an annual one "for the Vicar".

Nowadays, sadly, the amount collected is taken into account when calculating the Vicar's stipend and, in effect, is normally deducted by the church authorities.

Is there no way this custom could be revived, for example by putting our Easter offerings anonymously into envelopes and addressing them personally to the Vicar as a gift?

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES WYLIE,
The Wolery, Lodge Hill,
Newtown Village,
Fareham, Hampshire.
April 8.

'Talk radio'

From Mr D. J. Bridle

Sir, I watched *Naked News*, devoted to "talk radio", on Channel 4. I was fascinated to learn that opinions which are not those held by the broadcasting establishment could be aired in the United States, and without having to pay a licence fee to a BBC to hear them.

Lynne Truss (Review, April 7) does not appear to like the freedom of others to disagree with the "accepted" opinions of the media.

Personally, I am more worried by her attitude than by Rush Limbaugh and G. Gordon Liddy, two of talk radio's star performers. Where there is diversity we are free to choose and to make up our own minds.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. BRIDLE,
9 Yeomans Orchard,
Wrington, Bristol, Avon.
April 7.

Forecasting change

From Mr John Foundly

Sir, In view of recent pronouncements on global warming should consideration now be given to adjusting the timing before which one is warned that a clout should not be cast?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FOUNDLY,
110 Marine Crescent,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex.
April 8.

Hospital closures and meeting the community's needs

From the President of the Royal College of Physicians

Sir, It is hard to convince anyone that closure of established and well regarded hospitals can lead to benefits to the service (letters, April 7). However, London's health services had been in need of review for many years before the 1992 Tomlinson report, and many of its recommendations were regarded as being sensible. The recent heated debates testify to the perceived imbalance between potential damage and benefits.

Against this background it is easy to forget that the original aspirations, to manage changes in London rather than simply leave them to the market, were laudable. Indeed, it would be a shame if some of the benefits which are beginning to appear on the horizon were lost in the heat of the moment.

The post-Tomlinson reviews of the major specialist services, which were undertaken largely by the medical profession, resulted in well researched recommendations about the focusing and realignment of such services in a smaller number of large centres in and around London. In many instances these recommendations are now beginning to fall into place.

The report focused heavily on the inadequacy of facilities for general practitioner services in London. There are signs that investment in general practice is moving ahead, although it will be some time before the benefits of such investment become apparent, and the expectation that improved primary care can reduce the need for secondary care is probably misplaced.

Plans to bring together London's medical schools into a small number of multi-faculty research institutions are emerging and are well supported by the clinical-academic community and major grant-giving bodies. The prospect of clinical and scientific benefits accruing from greater collaboration of hospitals and institutions should not be underestimated.

The time required and the complexity of the process for effecting these changes may well have been underestimated. This does not, however, make change less desirable. The question of how many beds are really required for London's population is not yet resolved, and the rise, nationally, in the number of emergency admissions indicates the need at least for caution when closure of whole hospitals is being considered.

The slight breathing space, given by the Secretary of State, around Guy's and Bart's might give the time necessary to demonstrate investment in and development of the facilities required to meet the needs of the population. Meanwhile, the rest of the country will take a critical view if the funding directed to London is not put to good purpose.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE TURNBERG, President,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
April 7.

From Mr James L. Bowen

Sir, The problem with London hospitals is that many of them are required to be "all things to all men". Not only are they expected to meet the health needs of the city's residential and working population, but they are required also to provide centres of academic excellence in which research and the teaching of tomorrow's doctors are performed.

One of the fundamental problems, not generally realised, is that these two basic functions, themselves interactive, are under the direction of two separately funded and administered organisations, namely the Department of Health for the former and the Department for Education for the latter, each with their own tiers of bureaucracy where those involved seldom consult with their opposite numbers.

Until these functions are brought together under one umbrella organisation it is difficult to see how the complementary requirements can be economically and efficiently met.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES L. BOWEN
(Director of Administrative Services and Personnel),
Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School,
The Reynolds Building,
St Dunstan's Road, W6.
April 6.

From Dr John Firth

Sir, As a doctor it is with great regret that I hear of the impending demise of St Bartholomew's Hospital. However, the site should not be lost to medical use.

May I recommend that all seven medical Royal Colleges — of Surgeons, Physicians, Pathologists, Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Radiologists, Psychiatrists and General Practitioners — be amalgamated on this one site, with the eventual intention of unifying to form a British Academy of Medicine.

This would give the strongest, most unified voice for British medicine, with its values and education, in the widest political and European context. It would hopefully decrease bureaucracy, increase the communication between the various "sects" of medicine and be a centre for postgraduate education and learning (the combined libraries alone would be immense).

To prime-pump the idea, every registered doctor would be charged a suitable levy on his General Medical Council fees. The vacation of the many diverse buildings would allow for their other uses or sale. Let us not leave it just to the hospitals to amalgamate.

I am, yours sincerely,
JOHN FIRTH
(Member, Royal College of Pathologists),
144 Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex.
April 5.

Suspended MPs

From Sir Robin Maxwell-Hyslop

Sir, I am interested to note that the Privileges Committee has recommended to the House of Commons that the two Members on whose conduct they have just reported should have their parliamentary pay stopped during the period of their suspension from the service of the House (reports, April 5).

In the last Parliament the Procedure Committee (of which I was a member) was entrusted with the task of revising Standing Orders (Public Business) to meet the current needs of the House. When its recommendations came before the House for implementation or rejection, I tabled one of my own: a new Standing Order that would automatically have suspended Members' pay while they were suspended (since otherwise they would actually have been better off by massively reduced workload while drawing the same remuneration).

When my amendment was debated, the Leader of the House advised against its acceptance, and only Mr Dennis Skinner, MP, and myself carried it to a division (which we therefore lost).

I still believe that the House made the wrong decision then: my hope is that it will now generalise the proposition that a Member suspended for misconduct from the service of the House should not be paid for that period, rather than just particularise it in the case of these two Members.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MAXWELL-HYSLOP
(Conservative MP for Tiverton, 1960-1992),
The White House, 4 Tiverton Road,
Silverton, Exeter, Devon.

From Professor Philip Norton

Sir, If the House of Commons decides to suspend Mr David Tredinnick for 20 days this will not, as you report, be the heaviest sentence imposed by MPs for almost fifty years.

The house voted for a similar suspension of John Browne, the Member for Winchester, in March 1990. And it certainly will not be on a par with the punishment imposed on Peter Baker, the Member for Norfolk South, forty years ago. He was expelled from the House in December 1954, after being sentenced to seven years in prison for forgery.

Where suspension is a consequence of the Speaker "naming" a Member, the Member is suspended from the precincts. In other cases, such as this one, suspension from the precincts applies only if expressly provided for in the motion.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP NORTON,
University of Hull,
Department of Politics,
Hull HU6 7RX.
April 5.

To save Burundi

From Mr Abiy Hailu

Sir, Your helpful editorial ("To save Burundi", April 5) highlights the precarious situation facing moderate politicians in Burundi and the need for immediate action on the part of the international community to ensure that today's fragile peace does not become, as you say, tomorrow's "frenzied" genocide.

To this end, the British Government should encourage the European Union to enact with the greatest urgency its decision to send human rights experts to monitor abuses, to assist the Burundi Government in organising a national debate and to support the action taken by the OAU.

The Government should also ensure that the UN Security Council follows events in Burundi very closely, supports the office of the United Nations Special Representative and prepares a contingency plan in case the situation does deteriorate.

The international community should also insist that the Government of Burundi shuts down newspapers or other media that advocate violence and should support the Government in the long-term reform of the judiciary and the army, and its efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the October 1993 coup d'état and the bloodshed that followed.

A year after the killing of the Presidents of Burundi and Rwanda and the ensuing genocide in Rwanda it is time for us to remember those who were slaughtered, and to seek ways of reducing tension and restoring confidence in the region.

Yours faithfully,
ABIY HAILU,
Christian Aid,
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.
April 5.

Planning maze

From Mr John F. N. Collins

Sir, If "the number of planning appeals reported in the press is totally insignificant" (Mr Adamson's letter, April 4) when compared to the actual number each year, then equally so is the total number of appeals when compared with the half a million-plus applications received by local planning authorities each year.

That only 4 per cent of these end up as appeal cases does not demonstrate to me "that the planning system in this country is long overdue for public scrutiny".

Yours etc,
JOHN F. N. COLLINS,
Long Collins Partnership
(Planning and development consultants),
Richmond Place,
125 Boughton, Chester.
April 4.

From Dr H. Pearson

Sir, It is true that "the planning system in this country is long overdue for public scrutiny". In Wensleydale we face the prospect of extensive quarrying which will permanently damage the landscape. We are informed that we cannot object to the quarrying in principle, as the planning permission for it is still valid.

The permission in question was granted in 1947.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
HEATHER PEARSON,
Penhill Cottage,
Preston-under-Scar,
Leyburn, North Yorkshire.
April 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Misplaced machismo

From Professor Roy Gregory

Sir, In describing the characteristics of MPs (article, April 3) Matthew Parris reminds us that the House of Commons consists of "650 distracted, stressed out, overweight, short-sighted beings of mixed intellectual calibre, mostly middle-aged men".

Why, then, are their political activities widely described by themselves and the media in terms of intense physical effort — often associated with bloodshed, battle and warfare — that is clearly far beyond the capabilities of almost all of them? They fight campaigns. They joust. They engage in gladiatorial single combat. They attack and counter-attack. Ministers like to have "troops" behind them. Opponents are outgunned, routed, savaged and ripped apart.

Seeing that politicians are hardly ever engaged in head-to-head or hand-to-hand struggles, but are concerned rather to set out their stalls in the hope of making a favourable impression on viewers or listeners, the language of the instrumental competition, flower show or beauty contest would perhaps be more appropriate.

Will these curiously macho metaphors of fantasy violence continue to be so frequently used, I wonder, if ever there are 300 women MPs?

Yours sincerely,
ROY GREGORY,
Department of Politics,
Whiteknights,
The University, Reading RG6 2AA.

Feeling good?

From Mr Nicholas Nugent

Sir, Why won't politicians of any persuasion come clean and admit that people will never "feel good" so long as technology continues to destroy jobs at an alarming rate?

The remarks by the chief executive of Lloyds Bank that a further 75,000 banking jobs are likely to go (report, April 3) simply add to the long-standing fears of millions of people in many walks of life.

The introduction of part-time working and short-term contracts by many employers is an inevitable consequence of the current trend and does absolutely nothing to persuade people that they should be feeling good.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS NUGENT,
Grafton House,
Norton St Philip, Bath, Avon.

From Mr Aleyn R. Jordan

Sir, A further 75,000 jobs will go in the banking sector. Will the relevant boards of directors be reduced in a like proportion and on the same terms?

Yours faithfully,
ALEYN R. JORDAN
Huggles, 5 Ludkin Square,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
April 5.

Fruitless policy

From Mrs Delma Daly

Sir, Is the only hope for the Government to stop the import of bananas?

Yours sincerely,
DELMA DALY,
Fox Hill, West Drive,
Sonning, Berkshire.
April 6.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 9: Mr Roland Wiseman was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Birthdays

Lord Brookes, 86; Professor A.E. Buckwell, agricultural economist, 48; Professor Desmond Clark, archaeologist, 79; Sir Anthony Cleaver, chairman, UK AEA, 57; Earl De La Warr, 47; Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing, 86; Mr Patrick Garland, theatre and film director, 60; Mr A.M. Henri, former president, Liverpool Academy of Arts, 63; Mr J.H. Holroyd, civil servant, 60; Miss Gloria Hunniford, broadcaster, 55; Mr Owen Kelly, former commissioner, City of London Police, 63; Professor Kathleen Major, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 89; Mr Stan Mellor, racehorse trainer, 58; Mr David Moorcroft, athlete, 42; Lord Morton of Shuna, 65; Sir Robert Rhodes James, former MP, 62; Mr Omar Sharif, actor, 63; Mr Tom Spencer, MEP, 47; Mr Christopher Stoddart, managing director, GMTV, 45; Mr Paul Theroux, writer, 54; Mr Harry Weblin, chairman, Liberty, 65.

Christening

The infant son of Richard and Edita Jones-Alvarez was christened Richard Airey by Padre Francisco in Estepona, Spain, on April 8, 1995. The godparents are Miss Herta Schadler and Mr Ethelbert Cowe.

Colonel Kenneth H. Osborne

The Memorial Service for Colonel K.H. Osborne, DSO, OBE, MC, TD, will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, WC2, on Tuesday, June 13, at 2.45pm. All are welcome and those wishing to attend are asked to notify Miss Christabel Wrigley at 1 Grosvenor Place, London, SW1X 7JH.

All England Women's Hockey Association

The AEWHA is 100 years old today. To recognise this milestone a reception will be held at the Wimbledon Club with the AEWHA President, Monica Pickersgill, invited press and invited past and present internationals.

Today's anniversaries

BIRTHS: King James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Linlithgow, 1512; Hugo Grotius, jurist, Delft, 1583; John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester, poet and courtier, Ditchley, Oxfordshire, 1647; Sir John Pringle, physician and president of the Royal Society 1772, Stitchel, Roxburgh, 1707; Samuel Hahnemann, physician and founder of homeopathic medicine, Meissen, Germany, 1755; William Hazlitt, essayist, Maidstone, Kent, 1778; Lew Wallace, American Civil War general and author of *Ben Hur*, Brookville, Indiana, 1827; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Nottingham, 1829; Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper proprietor, Makó, Hungary, 1847; George William Russell (A.E.), writer, Lurgan, Co Armagh, 1867; George Arliss, actor, London, 1868; Vic Feather, Lord Feather, trade unionist, Bradford, 1908.

DEATHS: Joseph Lagrange, mathematician, Paris, 1813; Alexander Nasmyth, painter, Edinburgh, 1840; Giovanni Amici, astronomer, Florence, 1863; Algernon Charles Swinburne, poet and critic, London, 1909; August Lumière, pioneer of motion pictures, Lyons, 1954; Evelyn Waugh, writer, Combe Florey, Somerset, 1966.

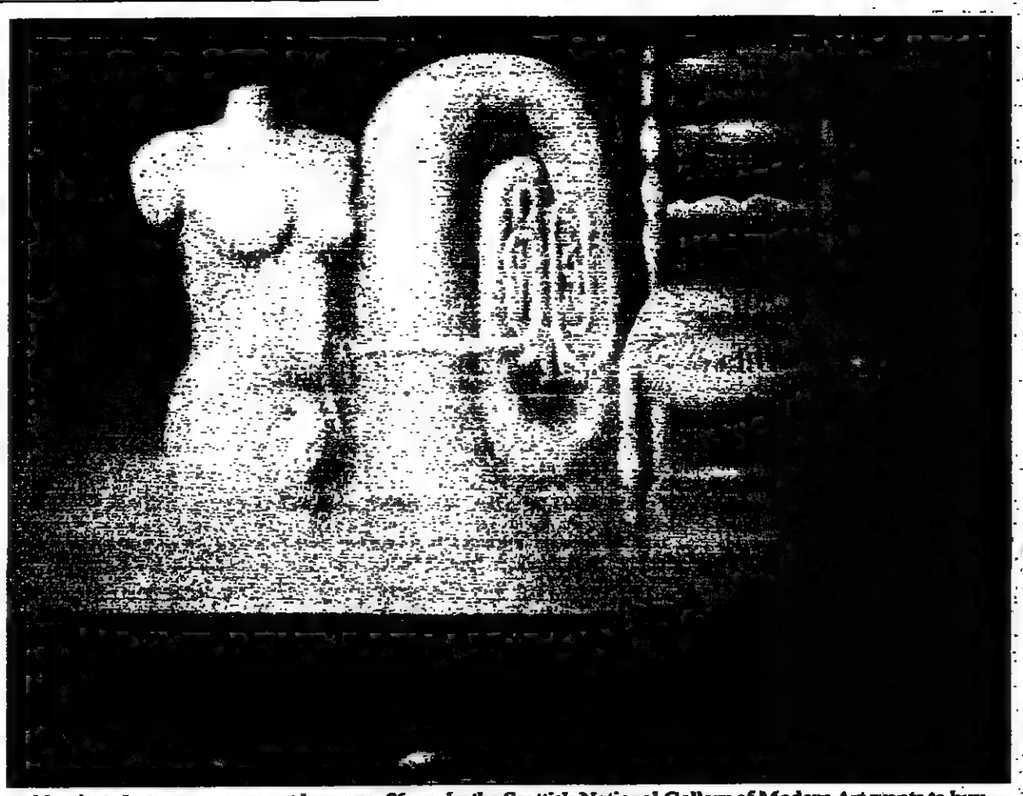
Bananas appeared in British shops for the first time, 1633.
The first British settlers arrived in South Africa, Algoa Bay, 1820.
The safety pin was patented by Walter Hunt of New York, 1849.
The Civil Rights Bill was passed by the American Senate, 1960.

Legal appointments

The following to be Members of the Employment Appeal Tribunal:
Employer members: Anthony Bridge (Scottish Member), Arthur Manners, Jacqueline Matthias, Alan McQuaker (Scottish Member), Roger Straker, Rosemary Vickers, Bruce Warman, Susan Wilson.
Employee Members: Margaret Prosser, Ann Robertson (Scottish Member), Roy Sanderson, William Speirs (Scottish Member), Elizabeth Symons, Alan Tuffin, Norman Willis.

Latest wills

Major William Tetbert Vivian Loyd, of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, manager of the Guards Polo Club from 1975-85, and subsequently the *Daily Telegraph* polo correspondent, left estate valued at £1,094,955 net.
He left £1,000 to the Life Guards Serving Officers Trust.
Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Mr Frederick William Archer of Salisbury, Wiltshire £1,156,425
Mr George Alfred Griffiths Bone, of Addlestone, Surrey £566,125



Magritte's *Le temps menaçant* is among 26 works the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art wants to buy

Gallery sets sights on modern masters

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art is attempting to acquire 26 paintings and drawings from a collection of modern classics that is arguably the greatest of its kind in private hands in Britain.

Picassos and Magrittes are among works owned by Sir Roland Penrose, who died in 1984. The artist, writer and exhibition organiser was a champion of modernism in Britain, founding the Institute of Contemporary Arts just after the war. He befriended most of the artists whose works the Scottish gallery is trying to buy. His wife was the American photographer, Lee Miller, once Man Ray's assistant. But he was closest to Picasso, whom he described as "the outstanding genius of the art of the 20th century".

The gallery, with which Penrose also formed a close friendship, hopes for money from the Heritage Lottery Fund, administered by the trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The collection is believed to be worth several million pounds. However, a private sale, with its tax concessions, would save the nation almost £1 million. Judging by the enormous popularity of recent London exhibitions on Picasso (at the Tate), Dali (at the Hayward) and Man Ray (at the Serpentine) — which between them attracted more than half a million visitors — the public has a huge appetite for these modern masters.

The Penrose collection includes the most important collage made by Picasso, *The Head* of 1913, one of his most abstract works. It once belonged to André Breton, the founder of the Surrealist movement. The works would complement the gallery's Penrose Library and Archive, which were purchased a year ago with help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and National Art Collections Fund. It is an extraordinary archive of correspondence with all these artists, as well as photographs, catalogues, ephemera, and a 10,000-volume library. The works that the gallery hopes to acquire are related in that they are documented in that archive.

The gallery has been given £150,000 by the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's leading art charity. David Barrie, director of the fund, said: "There is nothing to match the Penrose collection, and we are thrilled to be able to give the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art a flying start with its campaign."

The grant is a much-needed boost: the National Galleries of Scotland, which includes the modern art gallery, has had its annual purchase grant of £1.8 million cut by the Government £500,000 for this year, 1995-96, and the two succeeding years.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
COMMANDER: S R L Chelton - Staff of 2SL/CNH 25.8.95; J K C Pearce - Drake 8.9.95; C D Stockman - Staff of FOSM 6.6.95.
LOCAL LIEUTENANT COLONEL: R B Howard-Williams - RM Poole 3.11.95.
MAJOR: S G L P Buzza - 42 CDO RM 3.11.95; S S Milne - 45 CDO RM 27.10.95.
CHAPLAIN: P H R B Couch - Dartmouth BRNC 12.9.95.
Retirements
COMMANDER: I C Domoney - 29.6.95; D A Murphy - 26.06.95; R Porteous - 24.6.95.
The Army
COLONELS: S C Matthews - to HQ Land Comd, 10.4.95; A H Millington - to RHQ REME, 10.4.95; A F Birtwistle - to MOD, 10.4.95.
LIEUTENANT COLONELS: S C J Hutchinson, RA - to RSA Larkhill, 10.4.95; P F Kelly, RA - to be CO 103 Regt RA(V), 10.4.95; C P C Sloan, Hldrs - to be CO 9, R Irish, 10.4.95; S P Varvill, QRH - to JACIG(AE), 10.4.95.

Extra Chaplain

The Rev Canon Eric Arthur James to be an Extra Chaplain to The Queen on his reaching the age of retirement as a Chaplain.

Museum offers taste of traditional justice

By John Shaw

VISITORS will be given a convict number when they arrive for the opening of the Galleries of Justice museum in Nottingham today.

Their "offences" could be anything from theft to murder committed from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The number will allow people to follow their convict's fate as they pass through the museum at the Shire Hall.

Diane Lees, 31, chief executive, said yesterday: "The aim is not only to achieve realism but also to show how sentencing has changed down the years. "One person was transported for stealing a duck. All these cases are real and relate to people who actually appeared at the Shire Hall."

Among the exhibits, is the interior of a prison hulk, used to transport criminals to Australia or the United States. There is an audio-visual display of a 19th century trial of three men convicted of burning down a local silk mill. They were later hanged on the steps of the Shire Hall. Guides will wear period dress and displays will show how prisoners spent their time in the 1800s, picking oakum or sorting rags.

The Georgian-fronted building was the home of Nottingham Assizes and contains two prisons dating from 1775 and 1800 and impressive law courts remodelled in 1875. The building had been empty for eight years and was starting to decay when the museum project began. It was the brainchild of Geoffrey Goldsmith, a solicitor.

Some £2.9million was raised from the city and country authorities, private donations and the European Union. A legal exhibition is planned for the next phase in buildings next door and it is hoped that the site will eventually house the National Museum of Law.

Church news

Resignations and retirements
The Rev David Hirst, Rector, St Michael and All Angels w. St Gabriel's, Ashton under Lyne, (Manchester): to resign as from April 2.
The Rev Derrick Lowe, Rector, St Benedict, Ardwick (Manchester): to resign as from March 31.
The Rev Geoffrey Mitchell, Vicar, St James, Woolford (Manchester): to retire as from April 30.
The Rev Geoffrey Morgan, Anglican Chaplain to Coventry University (Coventry): to take medical retirement as from April 1.
The Rev Paul Spilsbury, Vicar, St Peter, Lawrence Weston (Bristol): to resign as from August 31.
The Rev Trevor Richardson, Vicar, Holy Cross, Croxner Street and Area Dean of South Camden (London): resigned as from March 13.
The Rev Alan Threadgill, Rector, Wymondham, Edmondthorpe and Garthorpe, Buckminster and Sewstern and Coston (Leicester): to retire as from October 9.

Woodbridge School

School House celebrates its Centenary on Saturday, April 22. All past members who would like details of events should contact Mr L.T. Saunders, 01394 382503.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.D. Barker and Miss C.M.V. Dixon
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs David Barker, of Haynes, Bedfordshire, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Dixon, of Hammersmith, London.

Mr J.S.B. Blake and Miss C.L. Jones
The engagement is announced between John Stuart Beaven, youngest son of John Blake, OBE, and Monica Blake, of Estancia Killik-Aike Norte, Patagonia, Argentina, and Carla Lucy, youngest daughter of Edward and Katharine Jones, of Mellor, Lancashire.

Mr J.A. Dallas and Miss A.F. Goodhart
The engagement is announced between Jim, son of Mr Duncan Dallas, of Chapel Allerton, Leeds, and the late Mrs Gloden Dallas, and Fanny, daughter of Sir William and the Hon Lady Goodhart, of Clarence Terrace, London, NW1.

Mr N.H. Durrant and Miss W.A. Walker
The engagement is announced between Nicolas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Durrant, of Roath Park, Cardiff, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Walker, of Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hampshire.

Mr C.H. Purkess and Mrs N.M. Walters
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Purkess, of Perrotts Brook, Gloucestershire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Collinge, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr S.P. Windsor and Miss P.J. Purkess
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Windsor, of Wantage, Oxfordshire, and Pippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Purkess.

Mr R.M. Tickell and Miss S.E. McElwaine
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.L. Tickell, of Potterne, Wiltshire, and Susie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.E. McElwaine, of Shaldon, Devon.

Mr R.S.W. Willoughby and Miss J. Mackness
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs P.G. Willoughby, of St Anne, Alderney, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.E. Mackness, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Dinners

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their Ladies, received the guests at a dinner given last night by the Corporation of London at the Mansion House in honour of the 1995 annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Among those present were:
Mr Jacques de Larosière de Champfeu (President of the EBRD) and Mrs de Larosière de Champfeu, Mr Pedro Solbes (chairman of the board of governors), and Mrs Solbes, the Italian Prime Minister and Mrs Dini, the New Zealand High Commissioner, Mr Clive Lands and Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, and Mrs Clarke, Sir Brian and Lady Unwin, Sir Nigel and Lady Wicks, Mr Edward Kellett-Bowman, MEP, and Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman, MP, Mr and the Hon Mrs Stanley Wright, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Mr Giles Radice, MP, Mr Brendon Donnelly, MEP, Dr Peter Truscott, MEP, and Mrs Truscott, Mr Graham Mather, MEP, Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP, and Mrs Cassidy, Governors, Alternate Governors, Bank Directors, Alternate Directors and Executive Committee Members of the EBRD, Aldermen, Common Councilmen and Officers of the Corporation of London and their guests.

Harrow Wanderers
A dinner was held on Thursday, April 6, in the Long Room at Lord's to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Harrow Wanderers Cricket Club. The Chairman, Mr Richard Compton, presided. Mr Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster, proposed the health of the Club and Mr Fred Woolley replied on behalf of the Club.

Marriages

Mr C.B. Godfrey-Faussett and Lady Diana Bowes Lyon
Princess Margaret was present at the marriage on Saturday at St Fergus Kirk, Glamis, Angus, of Mr Christopher Godfrey-Faussett, elder son of Mr and Mrs Richard Godfrey-Faussett, of Badlesmere, Kent, to Lady Diana Evelyn Bowes Lyon, younger daughter of the late Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne and of Mary Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne, of Glamis. The Right Rev Michael Hare Duke and the Rev Andrew Greaves officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, the Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, was attended by Hannah Proudlock, Lara Lang, the Hon Jock Bowes Lyon, the Hon Geordie Bowes Lyon, Richard Leeming, Freddie Braithwaite-Exley and Miss Islay Godfrey-Faussett. Mr Keith Young was best man. A reception was held at Glamis Castle and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Viscount Hawarden and Miss J.A. Bates
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wingham, near Canterbury, Kent, of Viscount Hawarden, son of the late Viscount Hawarden and of Viscountess Hawarden, of Wingham, Canterbury, to Miss Judith Anne Bates, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bates, of Sheperdswell, Kent. The Rev Peter Brownbridge and the Rev Campbell Paget officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Joanna Grilli. The Hon Thomas Maude, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. A guard of honour was formed by junior members of the Dorset Breed Society. A reception was held at the Grain Store, Bossington and the honeymoon will be spent in the Azores.

Mr A.M. Beetham and Dr A.M. Duane
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Brigids', Straffan, Co Kildare, of Mr Alexander Beetham, son of Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael and Lady Beetham, of South Creake, Norfolk, to Dr Ailbhe Duane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Duane, of Lucan, Co Dublin. Father N. Reynolds officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Aoife Twomey, Niamh Duane, Antonia Risius, Michael Duane, Charles Risius, Dr Meriel FitzPatrick and Dr Fiona Fitzpatick. Mr Timothy Holmes was best man and Mr Charles Elkin was groomsman.

A reception was held at Barberstown Castle, Straffan and the honeymoon will be spent in Australia.

Dr R.M.C. Leach and Miss X.S.L. Clay
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 8, 1995, at the Temple Church, London, of Dr Richard Leach, of Calne, Wiltshire, to Miss Xanthe Clay, of London. Canon Joseph Robinson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr John Clay, and attended by Mrs Mary Hughes, Miss Rosie Leach, Julia Devlin, Anna Jackson, Luke Parsons and Oscar Bales. Mr William Phillips was best man.

Service dinner

Cambridgeshire Regiment
Mr James Crowden, Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Cambridgeshire Regiment (TA) Officers' Dining Club held on Saturday at Waterbeach, Cambridge. Colonel W.F. Page, president of the regimental association, presided.

Service luncheon

Grapple Association
Air Vice-Marshal B.H. Newton, Chairman of the Grapple Association, and Mrs Newton received the guests at the annual Christmas Island reunion luncheon held on Saturday at the RAF Club, Piccadilly, for officers of the three services who served on the island with Task Force Grapple. Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Oulton, president, attended.

Nature notes

SUMMER visitors are flocking into Britain. The first blackcaps are singing vigorously in copses and large gardens: they are silvery-grey birds with black crown feathers that they raise into a crest when they are excited. The females, which arrive a little later, have a reddish-brown cap. Willow warblers are filling up the birchwoods, and the first swallows are flying over farmyards. A few wrynecks have been seen: they are mottled-brown birds that twist their heads around like a snake.

Most of the resident birds are now nesting. Nuthatches have taken over large holes in tree-trunks: they plaster up the entrance with mud, leaving only a small hole to go in and out of. Jackdaws also like to use a large cavity in a tree: if it is deep, they build a platform of sticks inside it, and top that with a bed of grass and fur for their eggs.

The blackcap

Pale white wood anemones are opening beside the bluebells, and pink spikes of lady's smock, or cuckoo flower, are out in waterlogged fields. On larch trees, there are red female cones among the fresh green shoots. The clusters of new hornbeam leaves look like folded green stars.

DJM

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But the person, be he native or alien, who also presumptuously insults the Lord: that person is to be cut off from the people.
Numbers 15 : 30 (NEB).

BIRTHS

BODEN - On 6th April, to Hattie (née Litton) and Nick, a son, Harry Edward John, a brother for Rory.
GORDON - On March 28th, to Rachel (née Brindley) and Richard, a son, Thomas Alexander Vass, a brother for James.
HASSH - On 7th April, to Henrietta (née Hassard) and Dennis, a daughter, Martha Jane.
SMITH - To Alexis (née Morley) and Reginald Smith, a son, Barnaby, at West Middlesex Hospital on April 5th 1995.

DEATHS

AUSTIN - On April 8th after a sudden illness, Richard, aged 49, of London W2. Much loved brother of Kay, uncle of Matthew, nephew of Vera and cousin of Adam. Dear friend of Gill, Sharon and Terence. Cremation at City of London Crematorium, Manor Park E12, at 12.00pm, April 19th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Research or to Friends of The Royal Free Hospital, London NW3.
BAILEY - The funeral service of baby Alexandra Georgina Bailey, daughter of Marc Richard and Samantha Jane Bailey, will be held at St Mark's Church, Reigate, Wednesday, 12th April 11am. Her body will be laid to rest at Redhill Cemetery at 12 noon. "We dearly remember a baby that brought so much joy and happiness in such a short space of time."
CHRISTOPHERSON - On 8th April at home, Tony aged 68, much loved husband of Jean and father of Tom and Peter. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Martin's Church, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent, on Tuesday 25th April at 11 am.

DEATHS

COX - On 8th April, peacefully at Meadlin Farm House, Steyning, Betty Cox (née Hamilton) aged 88, dearly beloved wife of the late Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Cox and much loved mother of Simon and Fiona, grandmother of Timothy, Nicholas, Ben, Louisa, James, Alexander and Andrew and great-grandmother of Rosanagh, Thomas, Alexander, Oliver and Freddie. Private cremation on Thursday 13th April. Family flowers only to Chalcrafts, Chapel's Yard, Steyning.
DETHFIRST - Clifford Rayner. Beloved husband of Joan, father of Henry, grandfather of Olivia and Rossella. Died at Northampton on 1 April. Family funeral: a service of thanksgiving will be held at Holy Cross Church, Daventry at 11.30am on Saturday 29 April. Donations to Compassion in World Farming, 5A Charles Street, Petersfield.
EMERY - On April 2nd 1995, James (Jim) of Bedford, aged 62. Dearly loved husband of Pam and a much loved father and grandfather. Requiem Mass and funeral took place at St Patrick's R.C Church on April 7th. Donations, if wished, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o Mr Martin Gerard, 2 Hillchurch Street, Hanley Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 2EX.
GOLDSMITH - On April 7 1995, with his customary courage and dignity, Maj. Gen. Robert Frederick Kingsake Goldsmith C.B., C.B.E. aged 87. Late of Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Husband of the late Brenda. Much loved and missed by Alick, Dominic, Lucinda and Crispin. Grateful thanks to the staff of Brandoncare, Winchester. Funeral service in Winchester Cathedral on Thurs. April 13 at 2.00pm. No flowers by request, donations, if desired, to The Friends of Winchester Cathedral, 2 The Close, Winchester.

DEATHS

HILL - On April 6th, peacefully at Princess Alexandra Home, Sunmore, after a short illness, Major Richard Hill MBE, late Royal Fusiliers, aged 96 years. Beloved father of Richard and Corinna, father-in-law to Doris and Ron and much loved grandfather and greatgrandfather. Funeral service at Rubislaw Crematorium at 3.30pm on Wednesday 12th April. Enquires or flowers to funeral directors L.J. Butler & Sons (0181-907 3163).
HUTTON - On April 6th, peacefully in Lymington, Letice Felicity aged 87, widow of Wilfred, sister of Cynthia and Rosemary. Funeral Service at Southampton Crematorium on Thursday April 13th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, for N.S.P.C.C. may be sent c/o F.W. Howse and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire.
LOGAN - On 6th April 1995, Patrick Liam Logan, husband of Dorb Mary (née Young).
VOULES - Lelly de Lisle Voules. Widow of Major Charles Voules. Mother of Felicity and Sonia. Grandmother of Charlotte and Caroline. Died peacefully at North Road Hospital, Aberystwyth on April 7th. Funeral service at St Winifride's Church Aberystwyth Thursday April 13th 10.30am.

BIRTHDAYS

RAY SPURGEON is 80 today. Happy Birthday & lots of love from Sally, James, Rosie & Jake

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED
Please help us by accommodating lovely abused and abandoned cats and dogs and those whose owners have died or are unlikely to. Our sanctuary provides daily home care for dogs, plus a rehoming service in the years city area. We rely on you.
Donations to
[illegible]
Hay Charity No 298700.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Court & Social Page
Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply:-
All notices to appear on Friday April 14th; Saturday April 15th; Monday April 17th; Tuesday April 18th must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 12th.
All notices are accepted subject to confirmation.
Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax: 0171 481 9313

THE TIMES
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
To place your Birth, Marriage or Death Notices over the Easter Holiday period please call during the following times.
Thursday 13th April 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Friday 14th April 9.30am - 2.00pm
Saturday 15th April 9.00am - 12 noon
Monday 16th April 9.30 - 2.00pm
Tel: 0171 782 7272. Fax: 0171 782 7799
Where our staff will be available to take your call.

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OBITUARIES

EDMUND HAMBLY

Edmund Hambly, civil engineer, died from a heart attack on March 28 aged 52. He was born on September 28, 1942.

EDMUND HAMBLY was in the middle of his term of office as the second youngest president of the Institution of Civil Engineers this century at the time of his death. He was an outstanding engineer, combining analytical brilliance with a highly creative and practical approach to the design and construction of major civil and off-shore structures.

Born into a Quaker family, Edmund Cadbury Hambly was the son of Edmund Henry Hambly, a surgeon, and his wife Elizabeth Mary whose grandfather was George Cadbury, the founder of Bournville. From an early age he enjoyed making things and by the time he was 12 he was clear about his engineering vocation. At school he found learning hard work and his initial progress at Eton was slow as he struggled with Classics. But his housemaster, Donald Bousfield, spotted his gift for mathematics (as well as for mischief) and from then on he caught alight and progressed rapidly.

After teaching in Kenya for nine months, where he felt that life really started for him, "Tim" Hambly went up to Cambridge to study engineering at Trinity College, graduating with first-class honours with a distinction in Mechanical Sciences and the university prize in theory of structures. He stayed on to do research in soil mechanics under Professor Kenneth Roscoe, whose demanding high standards of thought, presentation and commitment had a profound influence on him. He invented and built a most elegant and intricate piece of apparatus for subjecting rectangular prisms of clay to large uniform stains.

Elected to a research fellowship at Emmanuel College in 1967 he looked set for an academic career. However, he realised that specialisation was inhibiting his creativity and after obtaining the PhD in 1969 he resigned his research fellowship to go into industry. His early industrial career was devoted mainly to the design and construction of bridges and, in order to gain experience, he worked in quick succession for Ove Arup and Partners, Kier Ltd, and Gifford and Partners.

Initially, obtaining work was difficult and between (and indeed during) projects Hambly devoted much time to writing technical papers and books — for an engineer running his own practice his output was prolific. His first book *Bridge Deck Behaviour*, published in 1976 emphasises the importance of the physical understanding of complex behaviour coupled with simple analysis, both hallmarks of Hambly's work. A second highly acclaimed book followed in 1979, *Bridge Foundations and Substructures*, which contains a wealth of good practical guidance based on interviewing a number of practitioners. His approach was characteristically humorous and self-effacing: "If I had been well known they would have quoted the most advanced or respectable design methods. As I was not, they shared with me the simple practical methods they actually used on a day-to-day basis."

In the 1970s the oil and gas boom began in the North Sea and Hambly's multi-disciplinary skills became much in demand. Called in on problems as diverse as fatigue analysis of mobile drilling platforms, offshore site investigations and the towing and launching of massive jacket structures he revelled in the challenge of working out solutions without cumbersome traditions and rule books, which had not yet been developed. He had little time for codes and rules which discourage creative design and merely provide a catalogue of "correct solutions".

In 1984 Hambly was elected to the Royal Academy of Engineering as one of its youngest members in recognition of his outstanding contributions to civil and offshore engineering. Determined to be active in the work of the academy, he characteristically tackled an area much broader than his own field of expertise. In 1980, when investigating the failure, with loss of life, of a drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico, he formed the opinion that another manned platform had critical faults in its design. After lengthy calculations and much heart-searching he informed the owner of his concerns. The rig was taken out of commission and an independent check confirmed his doubts. A second similar episode proved much less straightforward and caused Hambly great anguish. Arising out of his experiences of warning about potential disasters he persuaded the academy that there was an important need to develop guidelines on the procedures to follow. He was appointed chairman of a working group and organised a most successful conference in 1991 at which the guidelines were agreed and issued. It is no coincidence that, following on from this work, he made a detailed study of the realistic evaluation of risk.

Hambly was a fellow of the Institutions of Civil, Structural and Mechanical Engineers. He served on the councils of the former two institutions and was chairman of the Offshore Engineering Soceity in 1989-90. In 1990 he was invited to be vice-president of the Institution of Civil Engineers and his refreshing independence of thought, and decisive but democratic and good-natured style of chairmanship, marked him out as someone very special. He took up the office of president in November 1994 and his presidential address was memorable for its lively and unusual presentation. He threw himself wholeheartedly into his presidential duties and visits, showing a genuine interest in all whom he met, and encouraging open questioning and debate.

In an age of increasing specialisation Hambly remained broadly based, allowing him to tackle an exceptionally wide range of engineering problems together with their ethical and social implications. In spite of ever-increasing demands on his time he lectured regularly at the Royal Institute and was a visiting professor at the University of Oxford. He was an outstanding teacher who, drawing extensively on his own experience and making use of models which he had built himself, inspired young people with the excitement of engineering.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and by three daughters and a son.

CONTESSA EDDA CIANO

Contessa Edda Ciano, eldest child of Benito Mussolini, died in Rome on April 8 aged 84. She was born at Forli on September 1, 1910.

EDDA CIANO was Mussolini's favourite daughter and, as a fervent admirer of Hitler, was instrumental in persuading her father to enter the Second World War against the Allies. However, she turned against Il Duce and renounced his name after he ordered the execution of her husband, Count Galeazzo Ciano, for his part in the Fascist Grand Council's revolt against Il Duce when it was clear that the war was lost. Her tragedy came to symbolise the dramatic plight of Italy as its people sought to shake free of the last throes of dictatorship in the closing stages of the conflict.

Throughout her life she captured the imagination of Italians. As an independent young woman she was good public relations for her father, embodying a futuristic vision of dynamic Italian womanhood. It was claimed she was the first Italian woman to drive an automobile and the first to wear trousers.

After she married the handsome Count Ciano, diplomat and future Foreign Minister on April 24, 1930, her independent lifestyle was a subject of fascination for gossip in Rome high society. Both were reputed to enjoy a series of extramarital affairs and she nicknamed the count "Gallo," a pun on his name and also the Italian word for a cockerel.

However, her love for the debonair aristocrat endured in spite of, or perhaps because of, his infidelities and she implored her father to renounce his decision to place his son-in-law in front of a firing squad in 1944. His crime was to vote against Mussolini as part of the Fascist Grand Council in 1943, precipitating an order for Il Duce's arrest by the Italian King. Mussolini subsequently was freed by the Nazis and fled to the north where the German puppet state of Salò was established and Count Ciano fell into the hands of Il Duce's diehard supporters. "For me you are no longer my father," she wrote to the dictator, "I renounce the name of Mussolini."

When Edda was born in 1910 in the northern town of Forli, Benito Mussolini was at the time impoverished but considered a dangerous socialist political agitator by the Italian police. Her mother, Rachele, was not to marry him for another five years. Her illegitimate birth started off speculation that her real mother was another socialist militant, the Russian Jewess Angelica Balabanoff. Mussolini denied this, saying he "would prefer to couple with a female ape".

Rachele described Edda as "wild" and a story circulated in the family that, as a young girl, she ran off with a band of gypsies. Mussolini was devoted to his eldest child and used to play the violin to lull her to sleep. After her father became Prime Minister she was sent to the smartest finishing college in Italy, the Poggio Imperiale in Florence, and the family moved from its modest house in Milan to the Villa Torlonia in Rome.

Edda was 20 when she met Count Ciano at a party in the Eternal City given by the Princess Resy Valguarnera di Villermosa. A previous engagement to another young nobleman, Count Pier Francesco Orsi Mangelli, had been broken off ten days before because this suitor had enraged Mussolini by asking Edda how big a dowry her father would provide.

The Ciano marriage in 1930 was followed by the golden era of Fascism. Her husband was posted to China as Italian Ambassador and subsequently became Minister of Culture and then Foreign Minister. Edda was at the centre of the most fashionable Rome salon, presided over by Princess Isabella Colonna, playing poker and drinking gin in the company of many elegant chaperons.

She admired Hitler and pressed her father to enter the war against the Allies. "The country wants war, neutrality is dishonour," she shouted at him in his office in the Piazza Venezia. Three years later she reversed her opinion while pleading for Ciano's life at Gargnano sul Garda. "You are all mad, the war is lost," she told Il Duce and his aides.

After the execution of "Gallo" and during her subsequent exile on the island of Lipari "Deda", as the count had called her, maintained a disdainful public silence, privately blaming both Hitler and Rachele Mussolini. She did, however, place her husband's diaries in the hands of Allen Dulles of the CIA.

She moved back to Rome and in 1975 spoke of her life for the first time in her autobiographical confession *La Mia Testimonianza*. By 1990 her recollections of her father had mellowed sufficently for her to define as "frightful" the title of a book written by her son Fabrizio: *When Grandpapa had Papa shot*. Three years ago she set the seal on her forgiveness for her father when she attended a Mass in his memory.

In her last years she was a familiar figure to her neighbours in Rome's via Paolo Frisi where she ministered to a large number of stray cats. The contessa also carried a photograph of her favourite feline Pippo in her purse between pictures of Galeazzo and Mussolini. She owned a villa in Capri, subsequently sold, where she housed Pippo and would send him postcards from Rome, instructing her servants to leave them on the floor for him to sniff.

She is survived by two of their three children.

ALEXANDER BIRCH

Alexander Birch, CMG, OBE, former Deputy High Commissioner in Australia, died on March 6 aged 82. He was born on January 19, 1913.

A DIPLOMAT in the Soviet Union and Hungary just after the Second World War, when relations between East and West were at a particularly low temperature, Alex Birch resisted several attempts to subvert him. On one celebrated occasion a ravishing temptress turned up at his Budapest flat, wearing nothing — it quickly transpired — beneath her fur coat. But in Birch the Communist authorities had met their match. The bait in the honey trap was soon sent packing.

Few servants of the Foreign Office can have had quite such a variety of postings. These took him to Africa, the Middle and Far East, as well as both East and West Europe and Australia. Fewer still can have been quite so honest and outspoken — perhaps too much so, in Birch's case, for his own good.

He was a natural linguist, thanks partly to his own family background. Born Alexander Hope Birch, the son of a British businessman in Cairo's then large expatriate community, he was educated in Alexandria, then in Paris — the city which he loved most throughout his life.

By the age of 15 he spoke not only fluent Arabic but perfect French. He joined the British Consular Service in his home city of Cairo in 1937 and served there for five years before being sent to Addis Ababa in 1942 to help re-establish the British Embassy after the Italian occupation had been ended.

Birch had embarked on what now reads like a professional world tour. Thereafter he went to Moscow in 1946, Budapest 1947, Tel Aviv 1949, Baghdad (as second secretary, information) in 1950, Seoul (as first secretary and consul) in 1951, Jakarta in 1954, Khartoum (as first secretary, commercial) in 1956, Paris (as a counsellor) in 1961, Baghdad in 1965 and Accra in 1967. He was appointed OBE in 1961 and CMG in 1970.

Towards the end of a career in which he managed, with remarkable success, to steer clear of Whitehall, he went to Perth in Western Australia as Deputy High Commissioner for three years before retiring at the age of 60 in 1973.

After leaving the Diplomatic Service Birch was offered the chance of serving in the Caribbean as adviser to the Prime Minister of Antigua.

It was the stand which he took against drug-running and other organised crime on the island which eventually persuaded him, for reasons of personal safety, to move back to Britain in 1975, turning down the offer of an extension to his contract.

For the last 20 years he lived quietly in Clevedon, reading, walking and retaining an interest in foreign affairs. His views were as trenchant as ever, frequently leading him into fierce arguments and quarrels. An amateur boxer and rugby player when young, he retained his combative spirit to the end. But he had a wide circle of friends and never lost any of them for very long.

Alex Birch's first marriage was dissolved and his second wife, Joan, whom he met while serving in South Korea, died in 1982. Deeply depressed by her death, Birch recovered, only to be diagnosed two years ago as suffering from terminal cancer. There were no children from either marriage.

WILLIAM LeFANU

William LeFanu, librarian, died in Norwich on April 1 aged 90. He was born in Bray, Co Wicklow, on July 9, 1904.

THE Royal College of Surgeons of England was fortunate in 1929 to recruit as its librarian William LeFanu at the age of 25. When he retired in 1968 he had become the foremost British medical librarian of his time. He was the driving force who transformed a library, then something of a backwater, into a centre of research linked to other postgraduate medical libraries and closely associated with the teaching hospitals.

This tall, aristocratic-looking scholar with a privileged classical education has left London's medical studies deeply in his debt. He was so modest that he would impart his discoveries and his suggestions for better working practices as if he were plucking your sleeve to remind you of something which you had always known.

Funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and with the aid of a Canadian colleague, he undertook a survey of London's medical libraries and proposed their co-operative reorganisation. The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 led to the evacuation of the Royal College of Surgeons Library to a country castle, but LeFanu stayed in London and organised the supply of periodicals to military and naval hospitals.

The college in Lincoln's Inn Fields was destroyed by German bombing, but during its rebuilding and reorganisation the library became a vital resource in the reborn RCS, now a large graduate teaching and research institute within the University of London.

As the rebuilding proceeded LeFanu found time to share his enthusiasm for reorganising medical libraries. He founded the medical section of the Library Association, the Rare Books Group and became an honorary fellow of the RCS in 1971. He was chairman of the London meeting of the International Congress of Medical Librarians and vice-president of the meeting in Washington in 1963.

His gentle, unambitious personality led more and more institutions to ask for his help. He was chairman of the Royal College of Nursing library committee and visiting lecturer at McGill in 1963 and at Dublin in 1976. He worked hard to develop concern for the history of medicine with American scholars, and spoke at many American colleges between 1951 and 1974. He also served on the councils of the Bibliographical Society and the Royal Society of Medicine.

Such generosity with his time might have inhibited his own publications, but these appeared regularly for the last 55 years of his life. In 1938 he published his *British Periodicals of Medicine 1684-1938*. His bio-bibliography of Edward Jenner (1951) and his study of the writings of Nehemiah Grew, the 17th-century botanist who was perhaps the first to observe sex in plants (1990), have become classics of their specialist kind. He compiled *The Lives of the Fellows of the RCS, England* in four volumes (1930-1981), the *Catalogue of the RCS Portraits*, as well as writing regular reviews in British and foreign journals.

He constantly made life easier for others, notably for Sir Geoffrey Keynes, the RCS honorary librarian, who was editing the complete works of Sir Thomas Browne; LeFanu provided the translation of all the Latin sections. It was typical of LeFanu's courtesy that he always moved out of his librarian's chair when Keynes came into his room.

LeFanu's interests included his unusual orchard in Essex, the activities of the Linnaean Society, the Huguenot Society, and all things Irish. His father had been Commissioner of Public Works in Dublin and LeFanu inherited and published *Betsy Sheridan's Journal* (1960), as well as a catalogue of the works belonging to Dean Swift. He enjoyed his rare books and pictures, including a portrait of an ancestor who had escaped Catholic persecution as a small girl in Bordeaux, hidden in a barrel of apples. He was tolerant and tentative in his approach to religion, claiming that his mind was not acute enough to understand the Creed.

His greatest love was for his family. He married the composer Elizabeth Maconchy in 1930 and she predeceased him by five months. For years he used to keep a small, scratchy transistor in his desk at the RCS and would retire to listen whenever his wife's music was broadcast, returning with a satisfied smile. He is survived by their two daughters.

DEREK HARRIS

Derek Harris, journalist, died on April 6 aged 66. He was born on February 3, 1929.

BUSINESS stories and writing poetry provided the contrasting professional aspects of Derek Harris, a dedicated journalist who yet would always find time to help out a colleague. His accuracy, conscientiousness and reliability led to his holding a succession of senior posts on *The Times* business news section.

Derek Anthony Harris was born at Littleover, Derbyshire. The headmaster at the local church school recognised his talents as a writer and helped him to start as a copy boy at the *Derby Evening Telegraph*.

After a two-year break for National Service, mainly spent as official shorthand writer at the War Office, he was put in charge of a branch office. As a young man, with his dark hair, long stride and liking for motorcycles, he cut a dashing figure.

Harris was recruited by the Kemsley-owned *Manchester Evening Chronicle* in 1951 to cover Wythenshawe. Puzzled that slum clearance families were returning a Conservative MP, he conducted door-to-door inquiries for a general election story. He found the answer: "We've got a bathroom now."

Promoted to medical correspondent, he campaigned with one of the two Salford MPs, Frank Allaun, for an appointments system for hospital out-patients. At the time everyone was told to turn up at 9am and sit there until the consultant got round to seeing them.

He transferred to the Kemsley group's London office as the *Evening Chronicle's* London editor and became assistant news editor for all Kemsley's regional newspapers.

A move to *The Sunday Times* in the early 1960s saw him in charge of production of the successful separate business section and when the Thomson family bought *The Times* he switched to a similar role on the daily, helping to establish a section of equal size and stature.

Harris wanted to return to writing and, after a spell as news editor, he became commercial editor and then industrial editor. He launched the weekly column for small businesses in *The Times* and led the writing team producing the award-winning monthly facilities management pages.

Derek Harris died from pleural mesothelioma, a tumour associated with exposure to asbestos. He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1952 and by two sons and a daughter.

RAF College Cranwell

Air Chief Marshal Sir Andrew Wilson, Air Member for Personnel and Air Officer Commanding-in-chief Personnel and Training Command, was the reviewing officer at the graduation of 98 officers of No 156 Initial Officer Training Course from RAF Cranwell on Thursday.

Graduating Officers

General Duties Branch - Pilot

Flying Officers: P G Cochrane, BA, M L Crocken, J F Elliot, MB, ChB, M Hampson, BA, S W Hillier, BEng, P G Keenlyside, BSc, A A MacMillan, BSc, A P Marshall, BA, R S McNaught, BEng, C A Melen, T J Philpot, BEng, S I Reeks, BSc, G M Sagar, BSc, D T Sanders, BEng, C D Snaith, BA, S M Tompkins, BSc, M A Whitney BEng.

Pilot Officers: N Battersby, BEng, N S Berry, BSc, S E Blackwell, BEng, T Bunn, BSc, P F Carvosso, BSocSc, E J Cawthorne, BEng, S J Cloke, BEng, C S Donald, BEng, J M Everitt, BEng, A D Hanlon, BA, J T W Hough, BSc, S Lindsell, BSc, N C B Morton, BEng, R J Murton, MA, M R South, BSc, M J Stewart, MA, M R South, BSc, M J Stewart, MA, A J Twidell, BEng, A E Wells, BSc, P J Wyatt BSc.

Acting Pilot Officer R D E Potter.

General Duties Branch - Navigator:

Flight Lieutenant J E Savage, BSc

Flying Officers: A J Barber, BEng, J R Beldon, BSc, I D Bland, D R Walden.

Pilot Officers: S A Clayton, LLB, P R Goodfellow, BA, M F Pocock, BEng.

General Duties Branch - Air Loadmaster

Flying Officer B W Jopling, QGM

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Fighter Control

Flying Officers: J F Duffy, R P Rayer, BA.

Acting Pilot Officer: L R Sadler

General Duties (Ground) Branch - Intelligence

Pilot Officers: V E Sibley, BA, G D Williams, BSc

Engineer Branch

Flight Lieutenants: S A Baker, BEng, P Cunliffe, BEng, AMIEE, M S Ingleson BEng, AMIEE, F G Ross BEng, AMIEE, N Slater BEng, AMIEE

Flying Officers: A J Bobbin BEng, P J Bolton, R Fielder, BEng, N P Higham, BEng, M Hodge BEng, AMIEE, P Kelly, BEng, D M Lamberton, D S Maisey, J P Morfee, T D Neal-Hopes, BEng, P E Regan BEng, AMIEE, J M Shipley BEng, AMIEE, C D Tucker, BEng, S Whitehouse.

Pilot Officers: M A Barker, BEng, F J Hughes, BEng, R J Kellett, BEng, J D Stone, BEng

Supply Branch

Flying Officers: J A E Crabtree, BA, P J Wheeler

Pilot Officers: H S Fletcher, BA, M Sylvester-Williams, BA

Administrative Branch - Secretarial

Flying Officers: A S Burns BA, J Goodwin, BEng, J R King, MBE, J W Riddell, L M Smith, BSc

Pilot Officers: K L Fitzgerald, BSc(Econ), J Kimber, MA, P D Mardon, BA, S J Priestnall, BSc

Acting Pilot Officer G A Moody

Administrative Branch - Education

Pilot Officer L C Posthumus, BSc

Administrative Branch - Catering

Flying Officer R M Nichols

Foreign and Commonwealth students

Qatar Emirate Air Force

Pilot

Second Lieutenant: A Al Hajari, N M Al Naimi

Fighter Control

Second Lieutenant G N G Al Ali

Royal Air Force of Oman

Engineer

Pilot Officer S I A Al Harasi

Administrative

Flying Officer H Al Sa'adi, BA

Acting Pilot Officer M Z Al Abri

Zambia Air Force

Pilot

Second Lieutenant I Tembo

Ghanaian Armed Forces

Administration

Flying Officer F K Kudoh

Prizewinners

Sword of Merit: Pilot Officer S Lindsell

Hennessy Trophy and Philip Sassoon Memorial Prize: Flying Officer J F Elliott

British Aircraft Corporation Trophy: Flying Officer P G Cochrane

Overseas Student Prize: Flying Officer H Al Sa'adi

Group Captain Williams Memorial Prize: Pilot Officer L C Posthumus

ON THIS DAY

April 10, 1945

There was a growing feeling that the war in Europe was nearing its end and the members of the political parties that made up Winston Churchill's Coalition Government were beginning to think about a general election.

FUTURE OF THE COALITION

GROWING PARTY TENSION

From Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr. Bevin's week-end speech and Mr. Bracken's reply to it yesterday on behalf of the Conservatives suggest that the Coalition Government has entered upon its last phase, and that this may not be of long duration. It was foreseen when the Labour and Liberal parties decided that they must fight the next general election independently, that the continuance of the Coalition would become increasingly difficult once the external threat to national security was substantially removed. Mr. Churchill detected "the odour of dissolution in the air" some months ago. Now that the progressive disablement of Germany is removing the compulsion to national unity the political atmosphere is becoming more heavily charged.

The Minister of Information's reply to Mr. Bevin yesterday attracted special attention because of Mr. Bracken's close association with the Prime Minister, but it is believed that the Minister made his speech without any consultation with Mr. Churchill. The Prime Minister has consistently expressed the view that it would be wrong to break up the Coalition Government before the end of the war with Germany. And so far as any such decision rests with him he is unlikely to change his view.

The Labour Party themselves have tacitly accepted the position that the Coalition would continue till the "cease fire" in Europe. But the official statement issued by the national executive of the party last October did not go beyond saying that in their view "participation in the Government should continue just so long as in the opinion of a party conference, it is necessary in the national interest and for fulfilling the purposes for which the Government was called into being." It was in the same statement that the national executive expressed the view that when the time came to end a Government which was described as having been "a great partnership" the dissolution should be accomplished with dignity and good feeling, and that "it would be an unworthy thing for so great an adventure to end in squalid bickerings." The Labour Party will meet again in conference at Whitsuntide and if the official ending of the war before then does not precipitate events this will certainly be an important date in the political calendar.

PETROL FOR FORWARD ARMOUR

Air transport continues to be used on a big scale to keep our advanced armoured columns in Germany on the move. The approximate petrol consumpoon of an armoured division is 100,000 gallons a day. Yesterday allied aircraft flew in sufficient to supply the day's needs for five armoured divisions. The biggest quantity of petrol supplied in a single day since the advance into Germany was on April 4, when 669,465 gallons were carried to advanced bases in Germany by almost 2,000 aircraft. The average quantity supplied during the past week has been roughly 500,000 gallons a day.

On course for prosperity

The area that helped to found an empire rises again, says **John Grigsby**

David Sainsbury with Susan Angoy, chief executive of Deptford City Challenge, at the launch of the regeneration fund

If the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, the dockyards of Deptford could justly claim credit for victory at Trafalgar and the foundations of nearly three centuries of British naval power.

Now Deptford is fighting another battle: to reverse the legacy of decades of decline, helped by the Government's City Challenge programme. Although the area is now one of the most deprived in London, until the later years of the last century it was the home of a vigorous community of artisans with its foundries, coopers' yards and sailyards.

Monuments to its past prosperity remain, notably Thomas Archer's magnificent Baroque church of St Paul, and E.A. Rickards's Deptford town hall with its carvings of ships — the home of the City Challenge team — and fine Georgian and Victorian houses.

The late 20th century has contributed the "New Den" all-seater stadium for Millwall Football Club.

On the map, Deptford occupies a strategic position which is being promoted by a television advertising campaign created by Saatchi and Saatchi. It is only four miles from Tower Bridge and a mile from the tourist destination of Greenwich.

Nicholas Pearce, deputy chairman of Pearce Signs and a member of the Deptford City Challenge Board, says: "Being located in Deptford is ideal for a business such as ours. We have good road and rail access to central London, so we can be quick and responsive to customer needs. We also have a lower cost tax base than other areas close to the heart of the capital."

Yet until the Docklands Light Railway and the Jubilee Line extensions arrive, it lacks a direct public transport link to the heart of Docklands with which it has been identified for centuries. Deptford also has most of the problems of run-down inner areas and its progress is being watched by cities all over Britain.

Deptford suffered badly from the recession. Between June 1990 and November 1992, unemployment in the three wards of Evelyn, Grinling Gibbons and Marlowe, the area covered by City Challenge, rose by 72 per cent.

Yet in that year, Labour-controlled Lewisham Borough Council succeeded in the first round of the competition for City Challenge funds and so guaranteed the project £37.5 million over five years. Since then, Deptford has made a remarkable comeback.

The City Challenge team estimates that the programme has created more than 1,800 permanent jobs and preserved 284 since the project started, against a target of 3,000 new and 1,000 preserved jobs by the end of March 1997.

It has now earmarked £6 million for a regeneration fund to attract businesses and make sure that the momentum continues when City Challenge ends. The fund was launched last month by David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive of J Sainsbury plc, which is planning a new store in the area.

> 'We have good road and rail links to central London as well as a low cost base'

About £1 million of this will go towards the proposed new Docklands Light Railway station. For Richard Liddell, the chairman of the City Challenge Board and a former site chief executive for Siemens, the electronics firm, the transport links provided by the Jubilee Line and the Light Railway are vital to the resurgence of the area.

Mr Liddell sees the key to recovery as a partnership, not only with the private sector and the council, but with tenants' groups and other members of the community and voluntary organisations.

"The economic changes had left areas like Deptford to fend for themselves. If they had been in Wales or Scotland, millions of pounds would have been poured into them.

"Now Deptford has its chance and must make sure that there is a basis on which the private sector can build after City Challenge winds up. We need the big firms in the area involved as well as the smaller ones."

Citibank and Convoys, the newsprint importers, one of the few traditional riverside industries still operating on this stretch of the Thames, BP and the Training and Enterprise Council, as well as Pearce Signs, are among the large local enterprises supporting the project.

Within its geographical limits, City Challenge has clearly helped an area which needed it. Yet, pound for acre, Deptford has received only a fraction of the money which has been poured into Loodon Docklands and the other urban development corporations. The area needs the Jubilee Line and stations at both Deptford and Cutty Sark on the DLR extension.

However well its City Challenge fares, a Greenwich Waterfront strategy is needed to take advantage of the prosperity and tourist potential of Greenwich and the Isle of Dogs. Given Greenwich's position as the seat of world time, it should be a prime candidate for millennium funds.

A new solution to problems of decay

City Challenge was a success — but did it help to hide the truth about shrinking budgets?

City Challenge, which was launched by Michael Heseltine in 1991 in his second incarnation as Environment Secretary, introduced the fundamental element of competition into councils' bids to obtain government help in tackling the problems of inner cities, *John Grigsby writes.*

It has now become the bedrock of the Government's approach to both urban and rural deprivation.

The City Challenge programme committed £1 billion over five years to regenerating run-down urban areas in England, but it was limited to the 57 urban programme authorities.

Mr Heseltine's missionary approach to competition was to be adopted in other Department of the Environment programmes, notably the bidding for housing investment funds.

Ministers and officials believed that regeneration funds were being spread too thinly to have any real impact. The idea of City Challenge was to concentrate money on the whole range of problems in a fairly small geographical area.

They hoped that this would act as a catalyst and that the approaches and the solutions could be adopted in other areas.

But after only two rounds in which 32 councils — all but a handful of them London boroughs and metropolitan authorities — emerged victorious, City Challenge has been absorbed into the new single regeneration budget operated by the unified regional government offices.

John Mawson, senior lecturer at the School of Public Policy at Birmingham University, who is responsible for a report on the new single regeneration budget, which will be published at a conference in the city on April 26, says of City Challenge: "It has had a number of beneficial effects on the process of delivering regeneration and acting as a catalyst and involving the local community.

"It introduced good practice in presenting targets to be achieved within a clear timescale. It was a response to the criticisms of urban policy in the 1980s that there was too much emphasis on physical regeneration and not enough on the local community and the complaint that local government had been marginalised.

"It achieved greater clarity and enabled those at the bottom of the administrative structure to work together."

But it required a great deal of local effort to put together

a bid. The scale of the prize could divert money from other areas of spending.

"Perhaps the greatest criticism is that it is a very convenient way to hide cuts in public expenditure. It is easy for ministers to say that those projects which fail to win do so because they have not put together a good programme, not because there is not enough money available."

The advantage of the new single regeneration budget, which combines 20 spending programmes, he says, is that it will reach rural areas and the smaller towns. It will have a longer time-scale of five to seven years and should be more flexible.

But he sees a problem in the small amounts of money available. Although £1.4 billion is involved, all but £125 million is already earmarked for projects such as the remaining years of City Challenge and the urban development corporations.

Although many councils were, and are, critical that the City Challenge money was based on their skill in putting together attractive packages rather than need, they bid enthusiastically for the funds which guaranteed each £37.5 million over five years.

Ian Thomas, policy officer for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says: "Some of our members would have liked to have seen a further round of City Challenge. The most important point about the single regeneration budget is that there is no new money.

"We are also worried that when City Challenge and the urban development corporations come to an end, the money will be clawed back by the Treasury and not used to improve conditions in the worst affected areas."

Alisa Blair, assistant secretary responsible for economic development at the Association of District Councils, says: "Some of the larger cities in our membership like Nottingham would probably prefer that City Challenge continued. But others, like Scunthorpe which were not eligible, will prefer the new system. It does recognise that quite a few of the smaller authorities have problems. Even an elegant city like Bath has wards where there are high levels of unemployment."

Although it can adopt the City Challenge approach to tackle a range of problems in a particular area, the single regeneration budget can also focus on a single issue in a place, for example managed warehouses, or a national theme such as training.

"Citibank is pleased to support the work of the Deptford City Challenge in a year which marks the bank's 20th anniversary as a major employer in Lewisham"

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Advertisement for DIRECTeam

Trading places in the job market

DIRECTeam is Lewisham Council's service organisation. We're responsible for emptying the borough's bins, cleaning its streets, maintaining its buildings, and catering for its schools.

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Working in partnership with Lewisham Council's housing department, we're running a unique employment training programme for local residents - the Community Refurbishment Scheme

THE TRAINEE

"When my contract as a paint sprayer ended, I was worried. Unemployment where I live on the Milton Court Estate, Deptford was running well above the national average. I started looking for work. I had a City and Guilds in electrical installation, plus my experience. Two years later I was still looking."

Wayne Newton, CRS TRAINEE

THE IDEA

"CRS was set up as a result of Lewisham Housing's bid to the Department of Environment for Estate Action funding. We realised that spending £100 million on renovating Deptford's buildings was not enough in itself to provide the economic boost needed. If you're going to change an area, you've got to help the people, too. That was how CRS came about."

Nick Robinson, LEWISHAM HOUSING TRAINING INITIATIVES CO-ORDINATOR

THE SCHEME

"Too many construction courses suffer from too little on-site experience. With the Community Refurbishment Scheme we decided to turn that on its head.
"We've taken 75 local people who've been unemployed for six months and given them the chance to train in a particular skill. The scheme runs for two years. They spent the first six months in one of our centres learning the basics, and the next 18 out on-site in paid placements with private contractors.
"With CRS our trainees get the experience needed to prove themselves to a potential employer."

Trevor Norton, DIRECTeam's CRS MANAGER

Wayne Newton and fellow CRS trainee at work on the Milton Court Estate, Deptford.

THE ORGANISATION

"Some people think it's strange that an organisation usually associated with emptying people's bins is providing high-quality training. I don't think it is. DIRECTeam has a very strong background in training. That's why we were accredited by Investors in People in 1993, and received a National Training Award last year.
"When our local TEC went bust, smaller training agents had real problems. We can take those kind of knocks in our stride."

Phil Walker, DIRECTeam's ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

"I decided to learn more about electrical installation, though having a previous qualification made no difference. I could have started from scratch if I'd wanted.
"After my initial training period, I worked for Soundcraft installing entry phones, then for Wates re-wiring a tower block. I think some of the staff were a little apprehensive about working with trainees, but that soon changed once they saw what we could do."

Wayne Newton, CRS TRAINEE

THE FUTURE

"I'll be one of the very first people to graduate from the scheme this summer. I know nothing's guaranteed, but I'm feeling confident. Already one of the contractors I worked for has said there could be a job for me. What's also been good is the fact that I've had a chance to work on refurbishing the estate where I live."

Wayne Newton, CRS TRAINEE

"CRS is not just about practical experience. The trainees study for an NVQ in their chosen discipline at Lewisham College.
"Drop out rates are extremely low. Most comparable schemes lose up to half their people in the first few months. On CRS it's down to just one or two."

Femi Bola, DIRECTeam's TRAINING MANAGER

"CRS is the biggest scheme of its kind in the country and our funding's secured for another six years.
"We know that 75 people isn't a huge number – in fact it's a drop in the ocean. But at least it's real. It's comprehensive, it teaches a real trade, and it sets people back on the road to full-time employment."

Trevor Norton, DIRECTeam's CRS MANAGER

Lewisham DIRECTeam

IMPROVING SERVICE QUALITY

هكذا من الأصل

A better place to live and to work

Crime is down, housing is improved and there is profit for business. **David Thurlow** reports on a rebirth

As the Deptford City Challenge approaches its final two years it is essential that the groundwork is complete to attract more new business. The first three years have been spent in working on the community and the environment, both of which are vital, as well as on business.

Crime has been cut by 28 per cent, with security at 195 commercial buildings and 1,109 houses upgraded. A closed-circuit TV monitoring system in the main shopping area, the High Street, has proved so successful that it may be made permanent.

Housing has been a prime target for attention. Two tower blocks have come down. The old Den, the former home of Millwall Football Club, is now a housing development, and 2,500 homes in an area where 64 per cent of the householders rent from the local authority have been or are being refurbished and renovated.

The environment has been upgraded, too. The challenge team worked with Lewisham Council — in whose area Deptford falls — to make Deptford Park a pleasanter place. The team has also helped schools with computer hardware and a shared Health Challenge programme.

Throughout everyone has been consulted in a new form of partnership. The City Challenge board of directors is made up of 23 people from public agencies, the Tenants' and Residents' Forum, the Community Forum, the Deptford Business Development Association, and from commerce. It has worked so well it can be used as a role model for any other similar operations in the future.

Now the stage is set to make sure the changes already made and planned continue, restoring the area to much of its former prosperity. In two years from June 1990 to November 1992 unemployment in the area rose by 72 per cent. It now stands at 3,900, but various schemes involving local businesses and job training, with 69,000 training weeks so far, have already attracted 85 businesses, creating 1,800 jobs. The target is specifically the economic programme aimed at bringing in large companies which will create jobs for the local people.

The regeneration fund has £6 million in the kitty. Susan Angoy, the City Challenge chief executive, said: "The past three years have been very successful for consolidating most of our community and housing initiatives. The thrust now will be on inward investment to develop the economic side of the programme."

Her team realised that something special was needed to attract big business to an area perceived as rundown and poor, with little to commend it.

Marketing co-ordinator Caroline Shorten said: "We realised that in order to raise our profile we needed to do more than put brochures in envelopes."

The high street on market day: closed circuit TV has helped to cut crime by 28 per cent

Then they had a tremendous stroke of luck. Through contacts they met representatives of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agents more associated with Tories and top products than Labour councils and rundown areas.

Saatchi and Saatchi were impressed, and for a much smaller fee than usual agreed to prepare a TV advertisement to promote Deptford. It not only gave statistics, but offered viewers a chance to guess the object of the ad before revealing it was Deptford.

The advertisement created considerable interest, and far more important, it brought the required result. The challenge has had more than 100 inquiries so far from as far away as Birmingham and the West Country, which are being followed up.

Ms Shorten said: "It was a high-risk strategy but it gave us a kick start and we are delighted with the result so far."

With the application by Sainsbury's for planning permission to build a new store complex right in the heart of the area by New Cross Station, there is the prospect of creating 350 jobs beside the A2 main road from Kent into London on which more than 50,000 vehicles travel each way daily.

Ms Shorten said: "If Sainsbury's want to come, we think others will follow."

The challenge has a number of other organisations to assist it, including the Business Development Association, which has more than 400 members so far, and the Deptford Business Growth Fund. The fund offers loans from £10,000 to £30,000 with preferential repayment over ten years and training for the unemployed, concentrating on skills needed for available jobs.

"We have the money and the chance to change Deptford and we are doing so," Ms Shorten said. "Our aim is to make Deptford a better place to live, work, visit and do business in." As the challenge message boldly asks: Deptford? Yes, Deptford.

● *The Hotline for information is 0181-694 0044*

Social deprivation — but more new jobs are created

Hope for the future grows behind the grim statistics

The chance of recovering former glory is always a difficult proposition. For a riverside place like Deptford, where the Royal Navy was originally built, it is a challenge as great as any it has faced, *David Thurlow writes.*

The great days of Deptford, home of naval shipbuilding for centuries, are long gone. But the structure is still there, and the City Challenge is offering it the chance to rebuild towards the thriving and bustling place it once was.

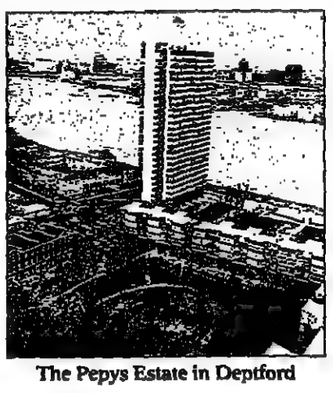
In the first three years of the challenge private money has poured in to match the Government's total grant of £37.5 million over five years. The final sum, a wedding of public and private funds, is estimated at £300 million.

The funds have gone to a wide variety of causes: health, health education, and community projects designed to build on the spirited mix of locals and ethnic minorities. Money has been spent on building and improving houses and businesses, creating jobs, and attracting interest from large firms such as Sainsbury's, which is planning a superstore in Deptford.

It is possible to paint a picture of Deptford, four miles from Tower Bridge and a few minutes by train from London Bridge and the City, in statistics. The 508 hectares (1270 acres) that form the City Challenge area stretch from the Thames, where Deptford has 600 metres of waterfront adjoining a planned cruise liner terminal on Greenwich Reach, across the A2 to Lewisham High Street, and take in five British Rail and two Underground stations.

Fifty per cent of the 34,000 people who live there are aged under 30 — a far higher proportion than either inner or outer London. Thirty eight per cent are from ethnic minority groups.

There are about 14,000 households in Deptford, some in tower blocks which, like many houses, are being refurbished in a £90 million action scheme. Nearly two-thirds of householders (64 per cent) rent from the local authority, one of the highest percentages anywhere in the United Kingdom. Only 14 per cent of the households have the conventional family (two adults with children where one adult is employed) and 10 per cent of the households are made up of single-parent families. Male unemployment stands at 25 per cent.



The Pepys Estate in Deptford

What the City Challenge is trying to do — so far with success — is to improve the quality of life and bring jobs and better conditions for everyone. The vision is to put Deptford on the map as a place in which to do business. Last year more than 1,700 people received job training and the challenge helped 45 businesses, from a fashion designer to an accountancy, to start up. This brought the number of start-ups to 85 so far, with 1,800 jobs created.

Among them is Kered Constructon, which has relocated there from Brockley. Kered's proprietor, Dean D'Eye, said: "City Challenge has brought private money and new jobs into the area. That would never have happened without a push from government.

"Deptford isn't somewhere where companies would automatically think of investing. You can already see the results by just drivng round the area."

Mr D'Eye wants to see local firms given the opportunity to be involved with the work, particularly with building refurbishment and renovation projects.

Chief executive Susan Angoy says: "City Challenge is engaged in a wide-ranging programme to improve the environment, build new homes, combat crime and support a number of voluntary and community associations."

Already 36 of the 44 planned environmental projects aimed at improving life for the tight-knit local communities have been completed.

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- internationally renowned departments including visual and performing arts, design and media and communication studies
- a large programme of continuing education and short courses for local people
- our Centre for Urban and Community Research addresses many of the issues facing inner city areas like Deptford
- undertaking a major redevelopment programme, working with Deptford City Challenge in the regeneration of the area
- widening access to higher education - over half our undergraduates enter as mature students; two thirds of our students are women, and with City Challenge help we are encouraging more and more local people to come to university.

"Goldsmiths is a cocktail of colours, cultures and characters, set in the heart of south east London. After a year out and endless months of discussion and deliberation, I've never regretted my decision to study here. The relaxed and informal atmosphere evident around the college, and the friendly staff have all played a part in making my three years here one of the most productive and happiest periods of my life...."

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NEWS

Politicians demand privacy law

■ Senior politicians renewed their demands for a privacy law last night as another Conservative MP was brought down by allegations about his sex life.

Richard Spring resigned as parliamentary aide to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, after the *News of the World* disclosed details of an alleged *ménage à trois* with a Sunday school teacher and a businessman. The newspaper also reported in detail indiscreet remarks Mr Spring was said to have made at a dinner party at his home ..... Page 1

Suicide bomb crisis in Israel

■ Israel was plunged into a political crisis after Islamic extremists in the autonomous Gaza Strip detonated two suicide bombs within miles of each other, killing seven Israelis and leaving 45 wounded, seven of them critically ..... Pages 1, 9

Currency delay

European Union finance ministers delayed the timetable on monetary union ensuring that a single European currency will not be introduced until well into the next century ..... Page 1

No win, no fee, no go

The Lord Chancellor has been forced to rethink his controversial proposals for "no win, no fee" litigation in the face of criticism from judges ..... Page 1

Damaged plane alert

Passengers on a Jumbo jet approaching Gatwick Airport watched as a piece of wing was torn off after they had given the crew a drawing showing that it was loose ..... Page 1

Medical danger

The growth of the "sue for everything" culture is threatening the quality of medical care and diverting scarce resources into lawyers' pockets ..... Page 2

Rider killed

The father of a young rider tipped to become a top competitor spoke of his grief after she was trampled to death by a horse she had groomed for two years ..... Page 3

Police disguise

The frail old lady struggling with a shopping bag on the streets ofBirmingham may look like an easy target for muggers but any assailant could be under arrest in seconds ..... Page 3

Dumb-dumb warning

Britain is in danger of importing the values of the "dumb-dumb society", David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, told head teachers ..... Page 5

Church row

A campaign to promote the ordination of lesbians and gay men in the Church of England is to be launched. The move could provoke further defections from a Church already divided over women priests ..... Page 6

Bench selection

More advertising of judicial appointments and the introduction of modern selection methods have been announced by the Lord Chancellor to bring more women onto the bench ..... Page 7

Vietnam memories

Robert McNamara blames himself and other top officials of the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations for countless errors in the Vietnam War ..... Page 8

Bosnia fighting

Warnings of a new eruption of fighting across Bosnia-Herzegovina dampened hopes of any new diplomatic breakthrough Page 10

Stone Age campaign

Protesters seeking to stop the construction of a huge dam, which will flood a valley containing hundreds of Stone Age etchings, will converge on a remote town in Portugal today ..... Page 11

The most dreadful show on Earth

■ A season of dire movies made by Ed Wood Jnr — whose adventures have just been turned into an Oscar-winning film — is to be screened by London's National Film Theatre. They include *Orgy Of The Dead*, *Jail Bait*, *Night Of the Ghouls*, and *Glen or Glenda*. Wood also made *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, cited as the worst film of all time ..... Page 3

SPORT

Football: Everton beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 to reach the FA Cup final but they must wait to know their opponents. Manchester United and Crystal Palace will replay after drawing 2-2 ..... Pages 23, 29

Motor racing: Britain's Damon Hill, driving a Renault-Williams, won the Argentine Grand Prix. He finished 6.4sec ahead of Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari ..... Page 24

Racing: Trainer Jenny Pitman, whose life has been dominated by the Grand National, paid tribute to the bravery of her second winner of the race, Royal Athlete ..... Page 27

Golf: Severiano Ballesteros was a solitary figure on his 38th birthday. As last man in the field he played with a marker in the final round of the Masters at Augusta 25

Cricket: An unbeaten half-century by Brian Lara helped put West Indies into a promising position against Australia in the second Test in Antigua ..... Page 25

Rugby Union: Leicester acknowledge they are in indifferent form a week before their match with Bath which seems certain to decide the the Championship ..... Page 33

Rugby League: Keighley, the second division leaders, are likely to take court action to try and prevent their exclusion from the new Anglo-French Super League starting next year ..... Page 32

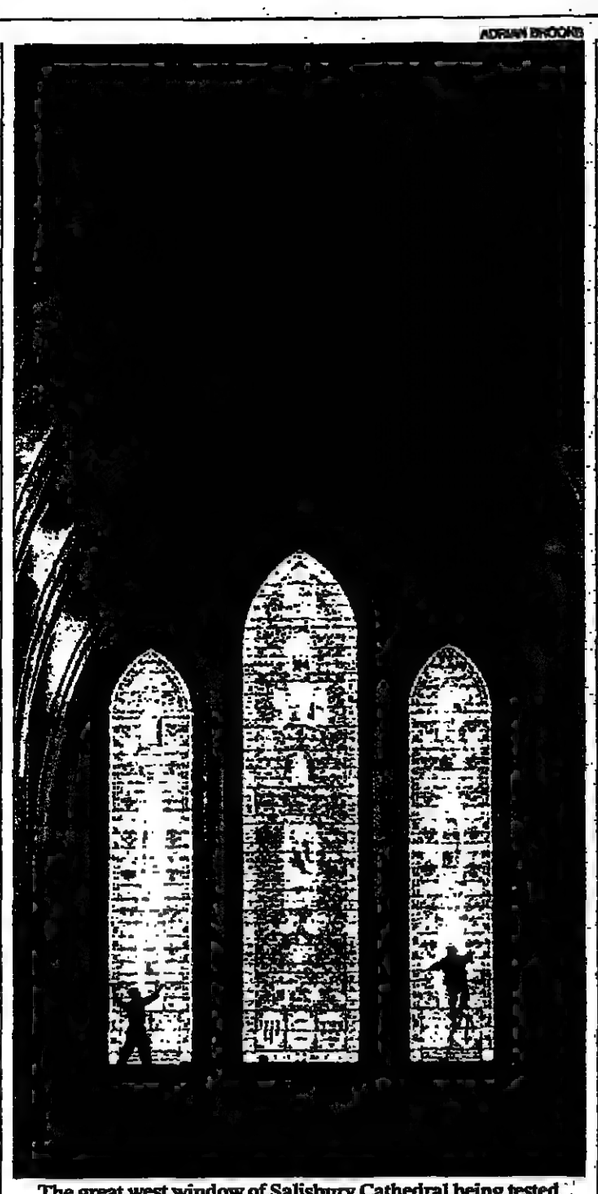
Boxing: Frank Bruno is confident he will beat Oliver McCall, who retained his WBC heavyweight title by beating the veteran Larry Holmes in Las Vegas,when they meet in London ..... Page 31

Snooker: John Higgins, 19, gained a 5-3 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final of the Castella British Open at Plymouth ..... Page 25

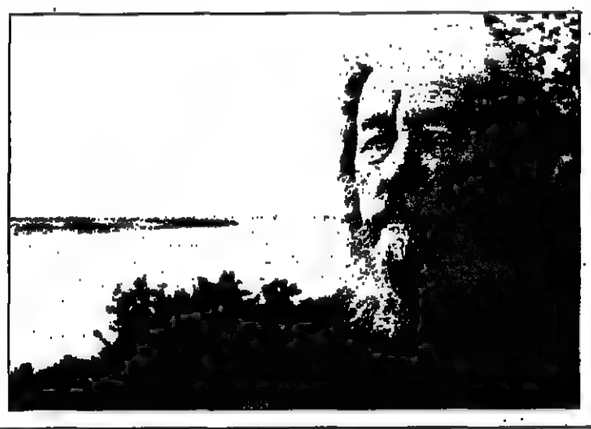
LOTTERY NUMBERS

14, 17, 22, 24, 42, 47. Bonus: 34

ADRIAN BROOKS



The great west window of Salisbury Cathedral being tested for condensation before double-glazing is installed. Page 6



IN THE TIMES

■ RED LETTER DAY
Peter Barnard on the TV documentary about Solzhenitsyn's return to Russia

■ MAMA MIA
Pasta? The Americans reckon that pasta can kill you? Bernard Levin fights back

Flat roller: A South African company has reinvented the wheel — and it's five-sided. Nigel Hawkes reports ..... Page 14

Shattered idyll: "Every visitor had a tale of something like this — whether it was lawnmowers from a shed or a garden gnome, if their houses had not been burgled, their gardens had." Giles Coren on a story of rural theft ..... Page 15

Key events: The natural history of the whole world, it seems, is contained in fossilised plants and their spores and seeds. Jane Stirling reports ..... Page 16

New looks: Schoolchildren visiting the British Museum and the National Maritime Museum are in for a fresh treat ..... Page 36

Canadian fisherman: The 50th-anniversary revival of Britten's *Peter Grimes* at Covent Garden turned into a triumph for the young Canadian tenor Ben Heppner in the title-role ..... Page 13

Loud and fast: A festival of Michael Nyman's music at the Festival Hall has started the way it means to go on: "The musical equivalent of being sandbagged round the head," says Richard Morrison ..... Page 13

Return of the Boy: That androgynous hero of yesteryear, Boy George, has a new single out in preparation for the publication of his autobiography, the wryly-titled *Take It Like A Man* ..... Page 12

Mother and son: Joan Plowright has opened in a play directed by her son, Richard Olivier, *If We Are Women* tells a story of mothers and daughters at odds ..... Page 12

Regional Electricity companies now believe that it might be illegal for them to agree with their regulator to hand windfall gains to customers, unless their shareholders vote in advance ..... Page 44

New engine: Ford is expected to approve a £200 million plan to build a new diesel engine, codenamed Puma, at its Dagenham plant for use on Ford vehicles internationally ..... Page 44

Bank rescue: Jacques de Larosière, president of the European Bank, which is holding its annual meeting in London today, is still trying to rescue the bank's biggest and most controversial project, a Soviet-style nuclear power station in Slovakia ..... Page 44

Preview: In 1994 Alexander Solzhenitsyn ended 20 years of exile. *The Homecoming* (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Review: The return of *Mastermind*: "And at the end of that round, Matthew Bond, you have scored three points. You passed on 17..."

Who goes there?

The doctrine that no power should be surrendered from the citizen to the State without clear justification is a sound one: ministers have failed to show that ID cards justify such a surrender ..... Page 17

The advocate's devil

Great pressure is being brought to bear on the Lord Chancellor to redraft his proposals for conditional fees for lawyers: he must repel this latest attack by a twitchy legal establishment ..... Page 17

Stop the dam

The Portuguese Government is proceeding with plans to construct a dam on the Côa river which will drown Europe's largest open-air site of Paleolithic art ..... Page 17

MATTHEW PARRIS

Looking at this undernourished, spotty youth, I felt so completely sorry for him. What hope did he have, finished before he's ever started, in London? ..... Page 16

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The manager who has taken early retirement, the small builder whose bank facilities were withdrawn and the former home-owner left with a mortgage debt after selling the house ... were Conservative voters ..... Page 16

Edmund Hambly, civil engineer; Contessa Edda Ciano, daughter of Mussolini; William LeFanu, librarian ..... Page 19

Prison policy ..... Page 17

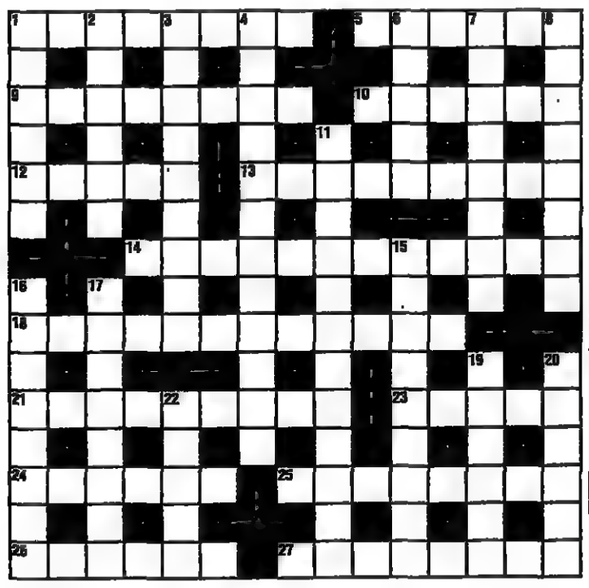
The voters have sent a clear message: "We are sick to death of this recession. We are sick of being squeezed by the Chancellor. We are sick of seeing our wages spent on supporting deadbeats"

— Sunday Express

The temptation to hang on in there until economic growth and tax bribes feel through to a venal public looks strong

— The Observer

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,825



ACROSS

1 Old boy in a haunt designed in the German way (8).
5 Greek character is first to reach a popular resort (6).
9 Very large carriage required by old clown (8).
10 Seaside wall on grey rocks (6).
12 Locates spectacles, say (5).
13 A target for river administrators (9).
14 Manufacture suitable objects primarily to scrape a living (4,4,4).
18 Kindly writer, embracing girl, sat for portrait (4-8).
21 American poplar newly lit up by an actor (5-4).
23 *Prisoner's poem written in middle* of alert (5).
24 My goodness, Lebanese extremists barrack the speaker! (6).
25 Aspiration, it appears, in a doctor no one rejected (8).
26 Soldiers given second signal to deliver (6).
27 Undeveloped island with grass by end of lake (8).

DOWN

1 Imposing fellow in a posh sort of shirt (6).
2 Garment provided for stingy son (6).
3 Where musicians are forbidden, say, to be candidates? (9).
4 We probably give them a shock when we take their chairs (12).
6 Remove impurities from the undergrowth (5).
7 Punch provided for one working profitably in the sunshine (8).
8 The heartless deacon's terrible story (8).
11 Bi-national link-up a Spanish dictator found relevant once (6-6).
15 E.g. crabby type — and inconsiderate, it's said in the pub (9).
16 Jittery person watching birds (8).
17 Tangled hair of the Spanish sheep, say (3-5).
19 *Account to cover day on a safari* here (6).
20 Trains French eleven to win medal (6).
22 Rice dish for the Italian in the Pyrenean tourist centre (5).

KNOCKANDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,824 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	738
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 15C (59F), lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 5C (41F), highest rainfall: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.02in, highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 12hr.

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will start on the cloudy side, perhaps with a few spots of rain in the east but central and eastern parts will brighten with sunny spells developing. It will again be fairly warm in the sunnier areas, helped by a lack of wind.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will brighten during the morning to give some sunshine in eastern parts but cloud will return bringing some light rain to the north during the evening. It will be mild but winds will freshen over western areas later.

☐ **London, S E England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England:** dry, sunny spells developing. Wind west or variable, light. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England:** cloudy start, mainly dry, brighter later. Wind west or northwest, light. Max 13C (55F).

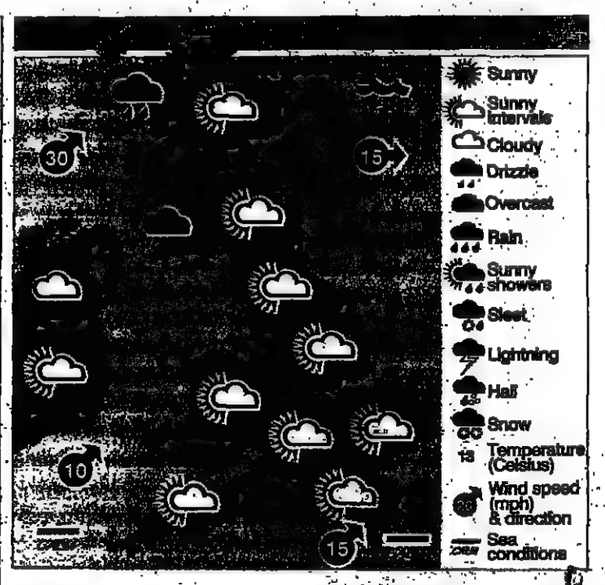
☐ **S W England, S & N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rather cloudy, some hill fog but mainly dry. Wind south or southwest, light. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** bright or sunny spells, cloudier later. Wind west or southwest, light or moderate. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **S W Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly bright, patchy drizzle later. Wind west or southwest, light to moderate. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **N E Scotland, N W Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright or sunny intervals, some rain later. Wind southwest light, becoming south fresh. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** cloud and a little drizzle in extreme northwest, otherwise dry and fairly warm with some sunshine.



Changes to chart below from noon: high J will move slowly and decline; low U drifts northeast and slowly fills as low W follows on a similar track and deepens

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.0	-	10	50	b	Lowestoft	6.0	-	10	50	s
Anglesey	3.6	-	12	54	s	Manchester	5.9	-	12	54	b
Aviemore	5.9	-	11	52	b	Margate	6.6	-	10	50	s
Belfast	7.3	-	12	54	s	Minehead	X				
Birmingham	6.7	-	11	52	b	Morecambe	8.5	-	12	54	s
Bognor R	12.0	-	14	57	s	Newcastle	X				
Bournem'th	11.9	-	11	52	s	Newquay	9.9	-	13	55	s
Buxton	9.2	-	10	50	s	Norwich	3.7	-	9	48	b
Cardiff	10.4	-	12	54	s	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	7.6	-	11	52	s	Oxford	6.9	-	12	54	s
Cleethorpes	7.7	-	8	46	s	Penzance	9.8	-	13	55	s
Colwyn Bay	4.6	-	10	50	b	Plymouth	10.4	-	13	55	s
Cromer	5.6	-	7	45	s	Poole	10.6	-	14	57	s
Doncaster	9.4	-	10	50	s	Prestatyn	X	-	14	57	s
Eastbourne	10.6	-	12	54	s	Ross-o-wye	7.6	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	7.4	-	11	52	s	Ryde	11.6	-	13	55	s
Eskdalemuir	5.0	-	9	48	b	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	8.3	-	11	52	s	Sandown	11.6	-	12	54	s
Falmouth	X	-	12	54	b	Saunton Snd	9.9	-	15	59	s
Fishguard	2.6	-	11	52	b	Scarboro'	6.9	-	7	45	s
Folkestone	9.1	-	11	52	s	Scilly Isles	8.1	-	14	57	s
Glasgow	9.3	-	12	54	s	Shanklin	11.6	-	11	52	s
Guernsey	10.6	-	14	57	s	Shrewsbury	1.7	-	11	52	c
Hastings	10.7	-	11	52	s	Skegness	6.4	-	9	48	s
Hayling I	11.4	-	12	54	s	Southend	X				
Herne Bay	7.6	-	10	50	s	Southport	6.0	-	12	54	s
Hove	9.5	-	13	55	s	Southsea	11.6	-	12	54	s
Hunstanton	7.6	-	8	46	s	Stornoway	1.3	-	8	46	c
Ilfracombe	X					Swanage	11.6	-	10	50	s
Isle of Man	9.9	-	10	50	s	Teignmouth	7.0	-	11	52	s
Jersey	9.5	-	12	54	s	Tenby	7.6	-	11	52	s
Kinloss	6.1	-	10	50	b	Tiree	9.6	-	8	46	s
Leeds	11.1	-	12	54	s	Torquay	7.1	-	12	54	b
Lerwick	0.7	-	6	43	c	Tynemouth	X				
Leuchars	X					Ventnor	X				
Littlehmptn	11.3	-	12	54	s	West-s-mare	X				
Liverpool	5.9	-	12	54	s	Weymouth	11.0	-	11	52	s
London	10.5	-	12	54	s						

These are Saturday's figures

ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64 f	Corfu	14	57 s	Majorca	20	68 s	Rome	18	64 s
Akrotiri	21	70 s	Dublin	11	52 c	Malaga	22	72 s	Salzburg	3	37 c
Alex'dria	20	68 c	Dubrovnik	10	50 s	Malta	19	66 f	S F'disco	13	55 f
Amst'dm	7	45 c	Faro	25	77 s	Melb'rne	15	59 c	Santiago	14	57 d
Athens	18	64 c	Florence	15	59 s	Mexico C	-	--	S Paulo	29	84 c
Bahrain	26	79 s	Frankfurt	7	45 f	Miami	26	79 t	Seoul	13	55 f
Bangkok	34	93 s	Funchal	22	72 s	Milan	16	61 s	Sing'por	33	91 f
Barbados	29	84 f	Geneva	11	52 s	Montreal	5	41 s	Sto'holm	4	39 f
Barcelona	18	64 s	Gibraltar	19	66 f	Moscow	4	39 r	Strasb'rg	8	46 s
Beirut	24	75 f	Helsinki	3	37 c	Munich	3	37 c	Sydney	21	70 s
Belgrade	3	37 r	Hong K	26	79 s	Nairobi	26	79 f	Tangier	24	75 s
Berlin	7	45 f	Innsbruck	4	39 f	Naples	15	59 s	Tel Aviv	27	81 c
Bermuda	21	70 s	Istanbul	7	45 f	N Delhi	34	93 s	Tenerife	22	72 f
Biarritz	14	57 s	Jeddah	32	90 s	N York	6	43 c	Tokyo	18	64 r
Borde'x	16	61 s	Jo'burg	21	70 s	Nice	16	61 s	Toronto	5	41 c
Brussels	8	46 c	Karachi	33	91 s	Oslo	7	45 s	Tunis	22	72 f
Budapest	8	46 f	L Palmas	20	68 c	Paris	10	50 s	Valencia	21	70 s
B Aires	-	--	Le Tquet	9	48 f	Peking	17	63 s	Vanc'ver	9	48 f
Cairo	28	82 s	Lisbon	25	77 s	Perth	22	72 c	Venice	13	55 s
Cape Tn	22	72 s	Locarno	17	63 s	Prague	5	41 f	Vienna	6	43 c
Chicago	7	45 c	L Angels	18	64 s	Reykjavik	4	39 d	Warsaw	4	39 f
Ch'church	17	63 —	Luxembg	7	45 f	Rhodes	19	66 s	Wash'ton	20	68 f
Cologne	7	45 c	Luxor	35	95 s	Rio de J	30	86 f	Wel'ngton	19	66 f
C'phagn	6	43 f	Madrid	23	73 s	Riyadh	31	88 s	Zurich	8	46 s

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8:25	5.30	9:08	5.58	Leith	10:19	4.24	10:57	4.38
Aberdeen	9:05	3.35	10:11	3.40	Liverpool	6:44	7.14	7:28	7.25
Avonmouth	1:12	9.64	2:49	8.80	Lowestoft	5:41	2.09	6:31	2.09
Belfast	6:28	2.99	7:12	2.61	Margate	7:32	3.77	7:54	3.87
Cardiff	1:16	8.98	2:21	8.76	Milford Haven	1:10	5.00	2:10	5.01
Devonport	0:13	4.28	1:26	4.18	Newhaven	6:49	4.87	1:22	4.98
Dover	6:40	5.04	7:16	5.28	Oban	1:19	2.86	2:44	2.90
Dublin	7:38	3.29	8:11	3.32	Portland	5:47	-	6:41	4.07
Falmouth	0:26	3.96	1:07	3.84	Portsmouth	0:20	1.35	1:48	1.27
Glasgow	7:23	3.87	8:44	3.51	Portstewart	6:18	3.64	7:23	3.88
Harwich	6:53	3.98	7:24	3.02	Shoreham	6:39	4.68	7:17	4.88
Holyhead	5:39	4.31	6:48	4.36	Southampton	6:00	3.57	6:58	3.80
Hull	1:40	5.50	2:08	5.72	Swansea	1:21	8.98	2:19	7.07
Ilfracombe	0:56	6.48	1:50	6.51	Tees	11:15	4.21	11:55	4.26
King's Lynn	2:12	4.60	2:38	4.69	Walton-on-Naze	6:46	3.21	7:11	3.27

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Full Moon April 15

Sun rises: 6.17 am. Sun sets: 7.48 pm. Moon sets: 8.41 am. Moon rises: 2.02 pm.

Lighting: 7.48 pm to 6.45 am. Bristol: 7.56 pm to 6.25 am. Edinburgh: 8.06 pm to 5.49 am. Manchester: 8.00 pm to 5.20 am. Penzance: 8.06 pm to 5.39 am.

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MOTOR RACING

24 Jubilant Hill laps up victory in Argentina

GOLF

25 European challenge falls short at Augusta

BOXING

27 Grand return for a reluctant hero

RUGBY LEAGUE

32 Begging bowl to riches in 96 hours

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 10 1995

Unsworth, of Everton, evades the challenge of Sheringham as the Merseyside club proves too strong for Tottenham in yesterday's FA Cup semi-final at Elland Road. Photographs: Marc Aspland

Royle's team outplays Tottenham to reach Cup Final

Everton power brings glory

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Everton 4

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

EVERTON plucked the cockerels of Tottenham Hotspur in the first FA Cup semi-final, at Elland Road yesterday afternoon, throttling them with pace, power and passing skills to win deservedly. They must wait until Wednesday to see whom they meet at Wembley on May 20 because Crystal Palace, who like Everton have a foot in the mire of relegation, fought tenaciously to hold Manchester United to a 2-2 draw.

So much for delusions of grandeur and so much, as Joe Royle, the Everton manager, triumphantly said later yesterday, for the so-called dream final of Manchester versus Tottenham.

"We went into a semi-final as the underdogs of war," Royle quipped, a reference to the sniping that has gathered around his team's performances almost from the time that he took over from Mike Walker last November. Royle is not too fond of the euphemisms about dogs. He claimed the media, with their preference for a "dream final", had done all that was necessary to goad his players in to high performance.

Being an honest man, Royle also admitted that an error on his part led to the touch — make that two touches — of romance that came towards the very end of the Everton victory.

Seventy minutes were on the clock, Everton's lead was a mere 2-1, when Paul Rideout lay in obvious pain after a fair tackle from Anderton. When the stretcher came on, Royle thought he saw the sign of surrender from Rideout, who was playing his first game after missing seven others with strained knee ligaments. In fact Rideout tried to signal his intention to play on: too late, Royle had released Daniel Amokachi, the Nigeria international who has had so little opportunity since his £3 million move from FC Bruges, into the contest.

Amokachi scored twice, it could so easily have been thrice, to give the scoreline a slightly flattering edge. At last this young, bewildered foreigner had proved that he is, after all, a player in the right place at the right time, something he had felt for seven months would never be said of him on his English adventure.

Speaking of adventure, Everton, not Tottenham, were full of it yesterday. They set off like greyhounds out of the trap. They spied the weakness of Tottenham at left back, where Edinburgh was suspended and Campbell had not been able to shrug off injury. Nethercott was asked to fill the role for the first time and when Everton switched Anders Limpar from the left to the right wing, there were hints aplenty that he would be Nethercott's undoing.

For a time, Walker, in the Tottenham goal, was equal to every attack. Ablett, one of three Evertonians adept at swinging long, piercing centres over from the left to the right, had played Limpar in behind

Pallister rescues United 29
Brilliant Beardsley 28

Nethercott. Limpar's shot was fingered onto the far post by Walker and, moments later, the Swede produced a full-blooded drive which Walker managed to stretch and hold.

The goalkeeper made an even better save in the 28th minute when, from one of those mesmerising corners of which Hinchcliffe is a master, Watson outjumped Mabbutt for a header. Walker, yet again, responded with a fingertip save.

Such was the dominance of Everton's direct football that we even saw Klinsmann covering at left back. And, though Southall had saved a swerving long shot from Mabbutt, the assaults by Everton continued.

The breakthrough came after 35 minutes. Hinchcliffe drove a corner towards the near post and Jackson, the Everton full back, was quicker to the ball than Nethercott. Walker, this time, was only able to get his fingers to the ball once the header had crossed the line.

Tottenham's immediate riposte was the worst foul of the game: a high, late, two-footed lunge by Barmby on Jackson that was worthy of more than a yellow card. It was punished in the right way when Everton doubled their lead.

They had just had a "goal" from Rideout correctly annulled for offside but Walker's kick was poor, straight to Rideout. Though the goalkeeper partially atoned with another diving interception from Rideout's shot, Stuart was presented with the simple task of putting away the rebound, a goal he richly deserved.

Six minutes later, Tottenham were awarded a penalty. Sheringham dived so obviously that the crowd was moved to laughter. He had sensed that Watson, like his partner Unsworth in magnificent form, would again win the ball in the air. So, without contact, Sheringham fell to the ground, fooled Mr Hart and Klinsmann splendidly stroked in the penalty kick.

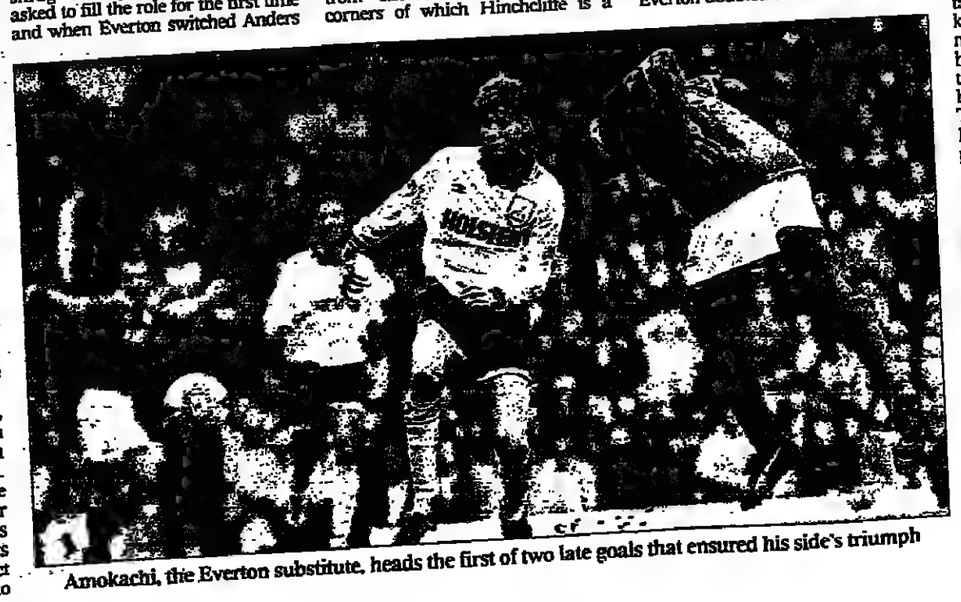
Tottenham, however, were struggling. Anderton had started the match with his damaged knee heavily strapped and Howells, so important as their anchor, had a swollen knee. The intervention of lawyers may well have put Tottenham's name back in the draw for the FA Cup but the right to play at Wembley can only be earned by the players. And Tottenham, as their manager, Gerry Francis, admitted, "simply did not perform as we could".

When Amokachi exploded in to the game with a header from five yards, after Limpar and Stuart had been the creators, we saw the tears of Walker. That was in the 83rd minute. Seven minutes later came another simple goal for Amokachi, the reward for running when intuition took him, being there six yards from the goal when Ablett crossed from the left after Limpar, once more, had provided the decisive thrust.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Nethercott (sub: R Rosenthal, 84min) — D Anderton, G Popescu, D Howells, N Barmby — E Sheringham, J Klinsmann.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, G Ablett — A Limpar, B Horn, J Parkinson, A Hinchcliffe — G Stuart, P Rideout (sub: D Amokachi, 70)

Referee: R Hart



Amokachi, the Everton substitute, heads the first of two late goals that ensured his side's triumph

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Horse sense keeps BBC one jump ahead

MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

The BBC may have lost Cheltenham to Channel 4, but it still has Aintree and the Grand National. In fact, under a new agreement the corporation has exclusive rights to the nation's most popular horse race until the year 2000. On the evidence of Saturday's excellent coverage, that can only be a good thing.

Channel 4's inroads into racing seemed to have spurred the BBC to new heights. No expense was spared as the corporation sought to beat the commercial station at its own game of capturing the atmosphere of a three-day festival and bringing it to the screen. Nine commentators, an astonishing 31 cameras, a brand new mobile control room and, on top of all that, Des Lynam. Truly our stirrup-cup overfloweth.

The 3½ hours of continuous screening may have been a bit long for some tastes (especially on a weekend packed with so many alternative sporting attractions) but there was no denying its quality. It was close to flawless, both for the live coverage of the National itself and, more impressive still, for the recorded rerun, when the director was able to call on replays from every conceivable angle.

Wonderful overhead shots from towers, extraordinary shots from cameras buried in fences and ditches and the relaxed, witty and informative commentary of Richard Pitman, Peter Scudamore and Bill Smith all made for unmissable television.

True, there were one or two hiccups. Five minutes before the off, for example, when you have 16 million viewers anxiously clutching unfamiliar betting slips, is not the time to break off the betting at 20-1 bar. As a race won by a 40-1 outsider and with a 100-1 shot in third place showed, the BBC should have made time to go right through the field.

The sun, which for the second weekend running smiled upon *Grandstand*, also caused problems for the cameras and cannot have made the nightmare job of commentating on a field of 35 any easier for Peter O'Sullevan, Jim McGrath and John Hanmer. Along the starting straight, in particular, the glare reduced horses and riders to almost unrecognisable silhouettes.

The build-up to the race may have been long but it was also picturesque, with some beautiful footage of horses during training. Into The Red jumping round an indoor school by himself. Gold Cap splashing through the waves and Master Oats hurdling through the fog — the corporation's camera operators showed they can do the arty stuff, too.

Although Royal Athlete scarcely merited a mention ahead of the race, Mystic Meg (borrowed for the occasion from the National Lottery) came close. She saw, she said, "a strong female influence". She was nearly right about Dubacilla and she was very close with Jenny Pitman, but sadly she plumped for Lusty Light and Esha Ness. The BBC should have asked our own Mystic Muscat instead.

From the start of her pre-race interview with Des Lynam, it was clearly going to be Pitman's day. She ran flirtatious rings round him. "You look ever so well. I think the sun's brought out a bit of colour." Somehow the conversation came round to being reincarnated as a horse and, in particular, a gelding. "But I'm not talking about you, Des — you might lose your sparkle." Great interview, great race, great television.

Which is an awful lot more than can be said for Chelsea versus Real Zaragoza, which thankfully was witnessed by only a modest television audience. Very modest indeed, it turned out, in Chelsea's home patch of west London.

Rights to the match were enterprisingly picked up by SportsWire, the cable-only television channel. The problem was that SportsWire is not carried by Videotron, the company that supplies large parts of west London. A microwave link transmitted pictures to the faithful assembled at Stamford Bridge. The more fortunate missed it altogether.

Accidents and passing manoeuvres mark thrilling race in Argentina

Hill opens his championship account

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN BUENOS AIRES

AFTER a false start in Brazil and a preliminary hiccup here, the Formula One season burst into life on its return to Argentina yesterday. In a race full of thrilling passing manoeuvres, where the lead fluctuated almost as much as Michael Schumacher's weight, Damon Hill routed his German rival to establish his own world championship challenge.

After the farce of São Paulo, where attention again centred on off-track controversy and the disqualifications of Schumacher and David Coulthard, the Grand Prix here provided the tonic the sport craved so badly. After the Brazilian dirge, this was a tango by comparison, a jaunty, spirited Argentine adventure.

It provided the final truth of Coulthard's coming of age before mechanical problems in his Williams-Renault forced his early retirement, and it drove home Williams's superiority over Benetton. When first the Scot and then Hill forced their way past Schmacher's Benetton-Renault they made him look like a tired marathon runner being overtaken by a sprinter.

Only Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, threatened Hill and in the closing stages it looked as though he might hunt him down. Hill held him off to win by more than six seconds but the feast of excitement sent the hordes of spectators home happy into the humid evening.

Long queues of followers, starved of Formula One for 14 years, lined the streets in the shadow of the grey tower blocks that overlook the circuit six hours before the race began. Anticipating more of the heavy rain that had dogged the rest of the weekend, they streamed into the stands resplendent in anoraks of red and yellow until there was not a seat left.

Thick cloud hovered over the circuit and the track, on the outskirts of the city, was still damp during the morning warm-up. But no rain fell and the spirits of the capacity 70,000 crowd lifted further when Carlos Reutemann, Argentina's best driver of the 1970s, drove a parade lap in a Ferrari with one hand on the wheel and the other trailing the blue and white national flag.

Five more faultless laps he drove as the crowd stood to applaud and the president, Carlos Menem, looked on. Eventually, he came back into the pits at a snail's pace, reluctant to relinquish his taste of former glories and return to his job as governor of the Santa Fè province.

His run was a gloriously simple exhibition of driving enjoyment but the start of the race proper conformed to the recent controversial norm. Coulthard and Hill both made fine starts and got to the first corner comfortably clear of the rest. Behind them, though, the fight for position turned into a jumble of flying debris.

Alesi's Ferrari spun out of control going into the corner and was rammed from behind by Salo's Tyrrell-Yamaha. Others were damaged trying to avoid the melée but, undeterred, more drivers hit trouble at the next corner where Barrichello and Panis spun off. With cars littering the track the race was stopped. The victims of the accidents ran back to the pits to clamber into spare cars.

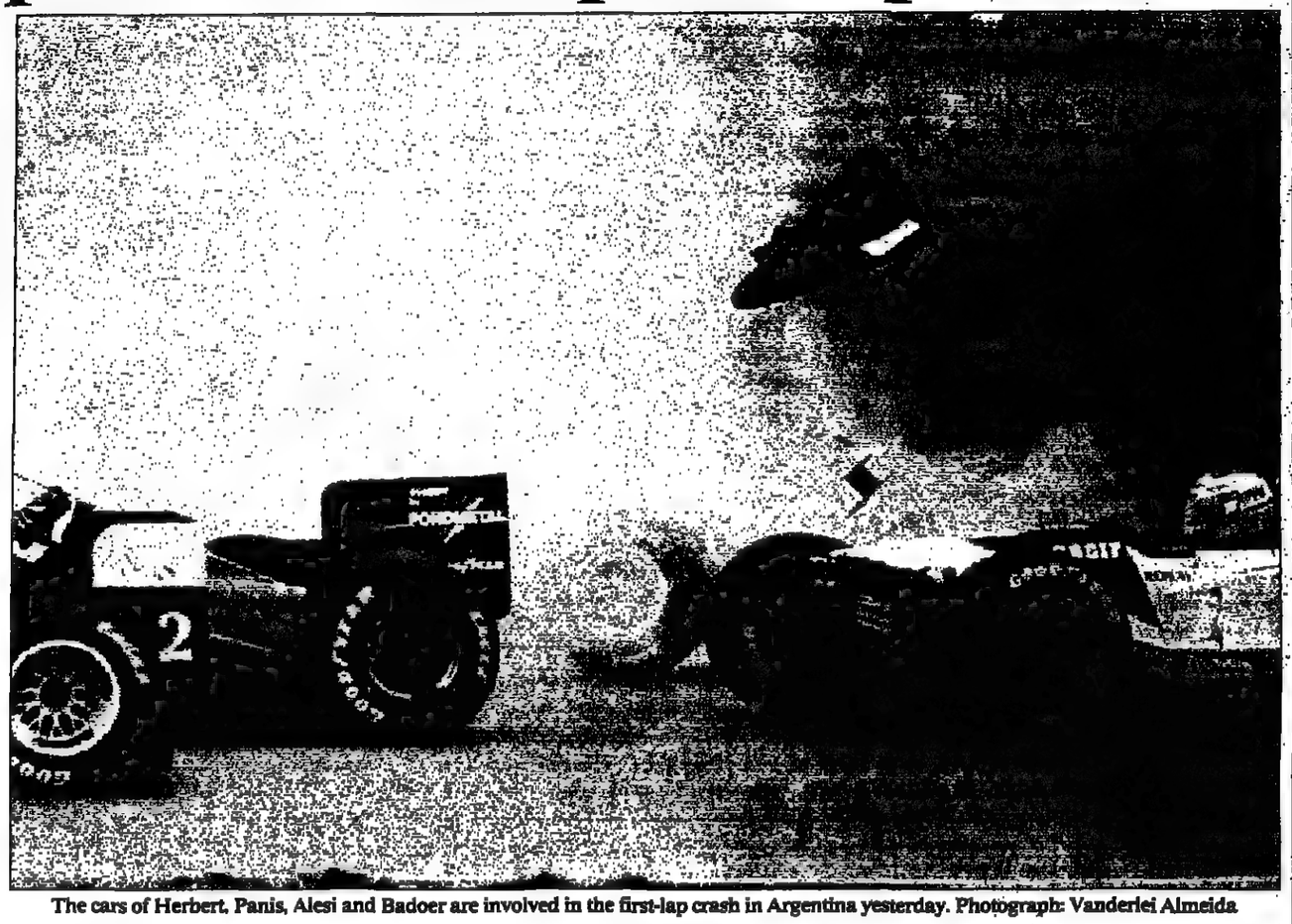
At the restart, Coulthard drove away cleanly again but Schumacher moved in front of Hill. In their wake, Hakkinen, in a McLaren-Mercedes, drove across Irvine's Jordan-Peugeot and burst his rear left wheel, careering into the gravel trap without impeding the progress of the rest.

With Hill held up by Schumacher on the narrow, sloping track where overtaking opportunities were at a premium, Coulthard established a lead of nearly four seconds by the end of the fourth lap, driving with a smoothness and confidence that belied his relative lack of experience.

But three laps later the young Scot's race fell apart when a recurring throttle problem forced him to slow to a halt at the end of the pit straight. When he re-started, Schumacher and Hill sped past. Hill pressed Schumacher and, on the 11th lap, darted inside the German at the end of the pit straight. It was the first time either had overtaken the other on the track rather than in the pits in the last 18 races.

Now, it was Coulthard's turn to pressure the world champion, but after he, too, had overtaken him on the 16th lap at the same point as Hill in a thrilling manoeuvre, he was forced to retire a lap later with mechanical problems.

The lead passed to Schumacher and then Alesi but when the Frenchman made a refuelling stop on the 26th lap, Hill regained the advantage. With Schumacher experiencing problems with his stops, Hill was never seriously threatened again. He will head into the European stage of the season with fresh heart.



The cars of Herbert, Panis, Alesi and Badoer are involved in the first-lap crash in Argentina yesterday. Photograph: Vanderlei Almeida

DETAILS FROM BUENOS AIRES

POSITIONS: 1, D Hill (GB) Williams-Renault, 1hr 53min 14.532; 2, J Alesi (Fr) Ferrari, at 6.407sec; 3, M Schumacher (Ger) Benetton-Renault, 33.376; 4, J Herbert (GB) Benetton-Renault, at one lap; 5, H-H Frentzen (Ger) Sauber-Ford Zetec, two laps; 6, G Berger (Austria) Ferrari, two laps; 7, O Panis (Fr) Ligier-Mugen Honda, two laps; 8, U Katayama (Japan) Tyrrell-Yamaha, three laps; 9, D Schattarella (It) Simtek-Ford, four laps.

Championship standings: 1, Berger 11pts; 2 equal, Alesi and Hill 10; 4, M Hakkinen (Fin) 6; 5, Schumacher 4; 6 equal, Herbert and M Blundell (GB) 3; 8 equal, M Salo (Fin) and Frentzen, 2; 10, A Suzuki (Japan) 1.

Constructors' championship: 1, Ferrari 21pts; 2, Williams 10; 3, McLaren 9; 4, Benetton 7; 5 equal, Tyrrell and Sauber 2; 7, Ligier 1.

FINAL QUALIFYING TIMES (from Saturday): 1, Coulthard, 1min 53.241sec; 2, Hill, 1.54.057; 3, Schumacher, 1.54.272; 4, Irvine 1.54.381; 5, Hakkinen 1.54.529; 6, Alesi 1.54.637; 7, Salo, 1.54.757; 8, Berger, 1.55.276; 9, Frentzen, 1.55.583; 10, Barrichello, 1.56.114; 11, Herbert, 1.57.068; 12, Morbidelli, 1.57.092; 13, Badoer, 1.57.167; 14, Verstappen, 1.57.231; 15, Katayama, 1.57.484; 16, Martini, 1.58.066; 17, Blundell, 1.58.650; 18, Panis, 1.58.824; 19, Suzuki, 1.58.882; 20, Schattarella, 1.59.539; 21, Wendlinger, 2.00.751; 22, Montermini, 2.01.783; 23, Gachot, 2.04.050; 24, Moreno, 2.04.481; 25, Diniz, 2.06.832; 26, Inoue, 2.07.298.

REMAINING RACES: Apr 30: San Marino, Imola. May 14: Spanish, Barcelona. May 28: Monaco, Monte Carlo. Jun 11: Canadian, Montreal. July 2: French, Magny Cours. July 16: British, Silverstone. July 30: German, Hockenheim. Aug 13: Hungarian, Budapest. Aug 27: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps. Sep 10: Italian, Monza. Sep 24: Portuguese, Estoril. Oct 8: European, Nurburgring. Oct 22: Pacific, Aida, Japan. Oct 29: Japanese, Suzuka. Nov 12: Australian, Adelaide.

Jackman eliminated in penalty dispute

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE drama that has pursued the NSF national squash championships since they were postponed from their usual January time slot for financial reasons struck again at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, yesterday when both top seeds were removed from the women's semi-finals in extraordinary circumstances.

First Suzanne Horner, the top seed and defending champion, from Wakefield, withdrew after losing the third game of her truncated 7-9, 1-9, 9-5 semi-final to Linda Charman, suffering from a severe back muscle problem.

Then, Cassandra Jackman, the second seed from North Walsham, Norfolk, was stopped dead in a courageous fightback for the fourth game of her 56-minute 9-5, 7-9, 9-2, 10-9 semi-final against the fourth seed, Fiona Geaves, of Gloucester, by a brace of astonishing penalty stroke decisions from the referee, Roger Jackson, of Yorkshire.

Jackman, 22, the world No 3, who failed unexpectedly in the British Open two weeks ago and was hoping to repair her reputation by winning a second national title in Sheffield, played patchily in response to a brilliant front-court attack from the Geaves, 27, who lost the 1993 final to Jackman. But the Norfolk player fought back with sustained determination from 4-8 down in the fourth game to lead 9-8. "I was rolling — I would have won from there," Jackman insisted.

The referee, however, snatched service away from her with a penalty stroke award which Jackman, rightly, declared from the court "should not have been even a let" as she cleared the ball by several feet. He then awarded an almost similar gratuitous point at match ball.

"You have spoiled this match," Jackman told the official before she could force herself to shake her opponent's hand in congratulation.

In the men's championship, the top seed, Stephen Meads from Wokingham, beat Yorkshire's Marcus Berrett 9-0, 9-2, 9-3 and will meet the fourth seed, Nick Taylor, of Lancashire who late yesterday defeated Jason Nicolle, 9-2, 9-7, 9-10, 9-2.

Todd hits form ready for Badminton

MARK TODD, the dual Olympic gold medal-winner, underlined his form for Badminton next month when he comfortably won two of the five advanced sections at the Pedigree Chum Belton Horse Trials in Lincolnshire yesterday (Jenny MacArthur writes).

The New Zealander, who had a fall earlier in the day from a third horse — Chessman — gained his first win in section N on Bond International's Just An Ace. Revelling in the fine going, the 11-year-old gelding, who was fifth at Badminton last year, had the fastest time to relegate Mandy Stibbe and King's Jester to second.

More surprising, as far as Todd, 39, was concerned, was that he also won section P on Robert Howell Constructions' Bertie Blunt. The former British team horse, on which Todd was eliminated at Burghley last year, had behaved "like a lunatic" at the pre-Badminton event at Wansford on Friday. "We doubled his work to get him settled and it had an effect," Todd said.

Mary Thomson, of Britain, had no such worries with her 1992 Badminton winner, King William, who won section R after a copybook performance. The 12-year-old gelding, winner of a team gold medal at the world championships last summer, achieved a dressage score of 15, his best to date, and was clear in both the show jumping and cross-country to finish 11 points ahead of Victoria Latta, of New Zealand, on Broadcast News.

Ironically, Thomson also had a fall earlier when Star Appeal, one of her three Badminton entries, made a mistake at fence 17. "We had a disagreement," Thomson, who was unhurt, said.

Lucinda Murray was less fortunate. She broke a bone in her hand and cracked a bone in her shoulder after a fall from Freddie Mercury at The Arcs — an imposing new fence — and will now miss Badminton.

One of the most inspiring performances however, came from Abigail Broad, 19, on My Abalu, who was runner-up in section M.

Britain's gloomy day lightened by Stevens

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A RUGGEDLY athletic throw by Ray Stevens, the light-heavyweight, brought Britain a rare shaft of encouragement at the British Open judo championships in Birmingham on Saturday.

With barely a month to go before the European championships are held in the National Indoor Arena, many of Britain's most eminent fighters failed to get titles.

Stevens was an exception. He won all his bounce earlier in the day inside the distance, including an awkward tussle with an obstructive Frenchman, Stefan Vasseur.

Stevens, 31, second in his category at the 1992 Olympics, had to use his experience to slip on an arm lock to which Vasseur submitted. Then, in the final, the 15-stone Stevens dumped another Frenchman, Pascal Legoux, with an immaculate inner thigh throw.

Stevens has been concentrating on throwing from different grips because so many of his international opponents are preventing him from securing his usual holds.

Elsewhere, however, many of Britain's leading competitors were ill at ease. The light-heavyweight, Kate Howey, third at the Olympics, had to withdraw from the championships with a back injury and Diane Bell, the light-middleweight, who won the gold medal in Seoul when women's judo was a demonstration sport, also failed to get a medal.

Even more worrying was the form of Nicola Fairbrother, the world lightweight champion, who lost her first bout to Severine Poret, of France.

In the women's featherweights, Debbie Allan, third in the 1994 European championships, took the title with aplomb, defeating another Briton, Georgina Singleton, in the final.

Ryan Birch and Rowena Sweatman, who both won European titles last year, also had disturbed days. Birch, a light-middleweight, went out in his first bout and Sweatman, a middleweight, was held down by Karen Powell, from Surrey, who went on to take the title.

Results, page 34

Poor showing for Monarchs' return

EVEN the 23-point margin of London Monarchs' 45-22 defeat against Frankfurt Galaxy in Germany on Saturday flattered them on their disappointing return to the World League of American Football (Richard Wetherell writes). Entering the final quarter 45-6 behind, two touchdowns, followed by a pair of successful two-point conversions, failed to put the score into the bounds of respectability.

Galaxy, after a barren opening couple of possessions, reaped full advantage from intercepting four Monarchs passes. All were converted into touchdowns as the Monarchs defense put neither Galaxy quarterback under serious pressure throughout. Without that, they proved unable to stop Frankfurt scoring.

Claymores photograph, page 34

FA to quiz speed-taker

FOOTBALL: The Football Association will this week interview a young player from a non-Premiership club who was found positive for a banned stimulant in a training ground drug test (John Goodbody writes). The player had taken an amphetamine known as "speed".

This substance can enhance performance, but the FA may not charge the player with a disciplinary offence since he was tested during training and not during a match. The FA will reveal his name only if it is satisfied that he took the drug to impress his club with a sharper performance.

Tendulkar leads rout

CRICKET: Sachin Tendulkar, right, scored an unbeaten century as India beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets with 16 overs to spare in the Asia Cup limited-overs competition in Sharjah yesterday. Tendulkar made 112 not out and shared in an opening stand worth 161 with Manoj Prabhakar, who scored 60, as India reached 206 for two in reply to Sri Lanka's total of 202 for nine.

Newton times it right

CYCLING: Chris Newton, the Commonwealth Games track silver medal-winner, won the 106-mile Archer Grand Prix pro-am road race near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). He attacked five miles from the line and finished 35 seconds clear of Glenn Holmes in exactly one minute short of four hours. The victory made up for his disappointment last year, when he faded at the end.

Bond captures title

BOWLS: Ian Bond, 21, of the Exonia club, Exeter, beat Ian Wones, 33, of North Walsham, 21-20 at Melton Mowbray to become the youngest winner of the Manchester Guay English national indoor singles championship. After saving a match point at 18-13, Wones edged ahead 20-19 but erred on the last end by delivering the jack into the ditch. Bond threw a three-quarter jack and scored two shots to win the title.

Warriors retain status

ICE HOCKEY: The only issue settled by the British League play-off games on Saturday was Whitley Warriors' survival in the premier division. Thanks to Steve Brown, with four goals and two assists, they gained a hard-earned 7-5 win over Milton Keynes Kings. Any one of three teams, all on six points with a game to play, could win the other promotion-relegation group.

O'Toole pips Haining

ROWING: Peter Haining, right, Britain's lightweight world champion, failed to retain his Scullers Head title on Saturday. He was pipped by three seconds by Niall O'Toole, of Ireland. The Scotsman, starting first of the 456 boats, held off a challenge from his heavyweight British rival, Guy Pooley, but O'Toole had calmer waters in his lower starting place of 124th.

Record eludes Kenyan

ATHLETICS: Douglas Wakiihuri, of Kenya, the former world champion, won the sixth World Cup marathon in Athens yesterday, only just failing to break the 26-year-old course record. Wakiihuri, 31, recorded 2hr 12min 1sec despite light rain and a difficult course. His time was 57 seconds outside the course record set by Bill Adcock, of Britain.

Italian wins on cobbles

CYCLING: Franco Ballerini, of Italy, broke away from a small group with about 22 miles left yesterday to win the Paris-Roubaix race, known for its cobblestones. He finished a minute and 30 seconds ahead of the defending champion, Andrei Tchmil, of Russia. Tchmil won a sprint ahead of Johan Museeuw, of Belgium, Ballerini's team-mate.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	160	330	good	powder	good	fine	3	8/4
(Fresh snow on varied base; good skiing)								
St Anton	95	475	good	varied	spring	snow	-5	9/4
(Colder weather and snowfalls; good skiing)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	195	480	good	heavy	good	sun	1	29/3
(All runs open with only odd bare patch showing)								
Les Arcs	125	415	hard	varied	fair	sun	5	29/3
(Spring conditions prevail; snow soft below 2,000m)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	50	250	icy	spring	slush	fine	2	30/3
(Colder weather causing icy pistes)								
Zermatt	70	290	good	varied	worn	sun	4	29/3
(Best skiing at altitude and on north-facing slopes)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

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No end in sight to Spaniard's troubles on outward half of last round at Augusta

Ballesteros struggles to regain mastery

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN AUGUSTA

THE end of the chances of Severiano Ballesteros in the Masters came on Saturday afternoon but the burial came yesterday. Ballesteros, five over par after 54 holes, had fallen to eight over after 63. In an act that symbolised Ballesteros's lowly position in the field, he was the first man to tee off in the fourth round at Augusta National Golf Club and he had a non-competing marker, an amateur, playing alongside him.

Ballesteros has often spoken of his belief that he has one more Masters title in him. Aware that most golfers have a span of perhaps five years when they are at their best, Ballesteros nonetheless felt that he could roll back the years at Augusta. Yesterday, his 38th birthday, was seven years after his last victory in the Open and 12 years after he won the Masters for the second time. It was not to be the day when that happened.

Ballesteros proceeded along steadily enough for the first three holes, racking up pars in an uneventful way. Alongside him and outplaying him was Danny Yates, the nephew of Charlie Yates, one of the leading lights at Augusta and the Amateur champion as long ago as 1938. Danny Yates will have played as many rounds in this Masters as the competitors who missed the cut because, as well as being Ballesteros's marker in the fourth round, he had fulfilled the same role the previous day for Jack Nicklaus.

A voice from amid the spectators standing behind the 6th green foretold bad play by Ballesteros. He peered up at the skyline where Ballesteros and Yates were standing on the tee that is 60 feet above the green and said: "When the NCM [non-competing marker] is off first you know that Seve is having a bad day."

Ballesteros had fallen foul of the short 4th, where the flag was in the newly created position of close to the right edge of the putting surface, perhaps 20 yards from bushes that screen the hole from a road. Some holes Ballesteros might like to wrap up and take home to Santander, Spain. This is not one of them. In three rounds he has not parred this hole. In the first and third rounds he took a five and on Saturday he managed a four.

Yesterday his drive flew too far right, into the bushes. Ballesteros turned over an iron and, hitting it left-handed, managed to scramble it to the green-side rough, from where he chipped and putted. On the 5th, the hole that Nicklaus eagled in the first and third rounds, Ballesteros hit his second to the left of the green and took a six.

Thus it was that Yates had the honour on the glorious 6th, the second of Augusta's short holes. His tee-shot thudded into the green 12 feet short of the flag. "Get inside that," a spectator said. A birdie two was on the cards for the American, whereas a three would be a good score for Ballesteros after he had hit his tee-shot to the left of the green and was faced with a putt across a sloping green and up a tier. Yates missed, Ballesteros left his first putt nine feet short and then holed.

"Now it is a game of passion," Mac O'Grady, who has been coaching Ballesteros, said. "No. It is a drama of passion." The words became even more true when Ballesteros hit a wild drive on the long 8th and bogeyed the hole and then sank a nine-foot putt for a birdie on the 9th, a putt that was neither above or below the hole but alongside it.

Several of the other Europeans were also in poor positions. Colin Montgomerie, who had been so confident in practice, saying he was going to attack the course on which he now felt more comfortable, finished in a blaze of threes on Saturday, three in a row starting at the 16th, but his total was 76.

Ian Woosnam's 71 was an up-and-down affair marked by an astonishing 55-foot putt he sank on the 8th. David Gilford, who had jointly held the lead for a fleeting moment on Thursday, slipped back with a 75. Unlike Brian Henninger, another player making his debut here, who was tied for the lead after 54 holes, Gilford had no chance of becoming the fourth first-time winner of this event, behind Horton Smith in 1934, Gene Sarazen in 1935 and Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979.

He looked overawed by it all, which Tiger Woods, for one, clearly was not. Even though Woods bogeyed seven holes in his last 15 on Saturday, the American amateur's striking of the ball and his demeanour suggest that he is truly a star in the making.

As for the distance he hits the ball, all one can say is that it is astonishing. After three rounds he led the field in driving distance, averaging 307 yards on the 5th and 17th, holes on each round on which drives are measured. On the face of it, Woods is longer than John Daly, who is generally accepted as being the longest hitter in professional golf. Here Daly has averaged a mere 292 yards.

Montgomerie blasts out of a bunker during his final round at Augusta yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

THIRD ROUND SCORES

US unless stated

208: B Henninger 70, 68, 68; B Crenshaw 70, 67, 69.

207: F Couples 71, 69, 67; S Elkington (Aus) 73, 67, 67; P Mickelson 66, 71, 70, S Hoch 69, 67, 71; J Haas 71, 64, 72.

208: C Strange 72, 71, 65; D Frost (SA) 68, 71, 71; J Huston 70, 68, 72.

209: G Norman (Aus) 73, 68, 68; D Love 69, 68, 71.

210: D Waldorf 74, 69, 67; C Pavin 67, 71, 72.

211: M McCumber 73, 69, 69; R Floyd 71, 70, 70; N Faldo (GB) 70, 70, 71; M O'Meara 68, 72, 71.

212: T Watson 73, 70, 69; H Irwin 69, 72, 71; I Woosnam (GB) 69, 72, 71; J M Olazabal (Sp) 66, 74, 72; L Janzen 69, 69, 74.

213: C Beck 68, 76, 69; L Roberts 72, 69, 72; B Langer (Ger) 71, 69, 73.

214: P Jacobsen 72, 73, 69; R Fehr 78, 69, 69; B Faxon 76, 69, 69; M Ozaki (Japan) 70, 74, 70; K Perry 73, 70, 71; B Lietzke 72, 71, 71.

215: J Nicklaus 67, 76, 70; P Stewart 71, 72, 72; J Daly 75, 69, 71; D Edwards 69, 73, 73; P Azinger 70, 72, 73; D Gilford (GB) 67, 73, 75.

216: J Sluman 73, 72, 71; W Grady (Aus) 69, 73, 74; C Montgomerie (GB) 71, 69, 76.

217: T Lehman 71, 72, 74

219: D Forsman 71, 74, 74; R Estes 73, 70, 76.

220: M Calcavecchia 70, 72, 78.

221: *T Woods 72, 72, 77; S Ballesteros (Sp) 75, 68, 78.

* denotes amateur

Nicklaus leads the old stagers' Masters revival

FROM DAVID MILLER IN AUGUSTA

Twice was miraculous enough. Three times would have been too fictional for words. The crowd that gathered at the fifth green on the final day of the Masters was expecting too much for the 55-year-old Jack Nicklaus to eagle this long par four for the third time in four days.

Sure enough, he went for it, never mind that he had just double bogeyed the short fourth to go two-over. His drive to the left of the fairway was longer than when he had holed a five-iron and then a seven iron respectively on Thursday and Saturday.

His pitch, with the flag awkwardly situated to the left with the green falling away immediately beyond it, was some 20 feet from the hole, and he calmly two-putted as the midday temperature climbed into the high 80s.

It has needed the comparatively youthful Brian Henninger, from Oregon, and Phil Mickelson, from Arizona, to prevent this becoming an old man's tournament. The performances of Nicklaus, Raymond Floyd, 52, Hale Irwin, 49, Tom Watson, 45, Ben Crenshaw, 43 and Curtis Strange and Greg Norman, both 40, have been the talk of this old cotton town.

Between them, these seven have played 151 Masters tournaments and it still seems there is no holding them when they're in the mood.

It has been particularly emotional for Crenshaw, who immediately preceding the event had been with Tom Kite to Austin in Texas to be pallbearer at the funeral of the 90-year-old Harvey Penick, the renowned coach.

Penick had been giving Crenshaw advice almost up to the time of his death - "Always take two swings of the club on the green but never let the head of the club pass your hands".

Crenshaw had previously won the Masters 11 years ago when he beat Watson by two strokes. Now he was playing not just for himself but for Penick.

"I'm trying, I'm trying awfully hard to apply what he taught me," Crenshaw said after the 69 which left him standing as joint leader with Henninger on Saturday evening.

The Golden Bear is a little hunched and stooping these days, as he is entitled to be after hitting a few million balls in the winning of his myriad titles.

The hands hang slightly forward at his hips as he pads along, yesterday looking quite unobtrusive in his sombre country-and-western check shirt alongside Payne Stewart, clad from head to toe in scarlet, looking more Max Miller than Johnny Miller, the crease in his plus fours sharp enough to cut butter.

Nicklaus has been in a relaxed, almost jovial mood with his fluctuating 67-78-70. "I putted terrifically," he said on Saturday, having gone round with 24 putts, never mind several times being among the trees.

He was again with his drive from the first tee yesterday, yet gloriously pitched over the gigantic magnolias, with their 100-foot spans that give shade to spectators to the left of the green.

He held par but then dropped a shot at the long fifth when he came bravely out of the bunker on the left for a flag placed precipitously above the bunker to the right ... and rolled into it.

His short iron on the 205-yard fourth was long and scuttled into the thicket beyond the green. A penalty drop and two putts on this skating rink with its eight degree slope cost him another two shots, but that did not lessen the applause. At every green the welcome rolled to a crescendo and was sustained like the sound of surf coasting across a beach in time with the master's urgent stride.

Strange's 65 on Saturday was indeed for him a sensation. He has done little since winning the US Open consecutively in 1988-89, his game almost disintegrating after shooting a 75 on the last day when defending the title in 1990.

He has, too, memories of that wretched Masters of 1985, when he led by four strokes at the turn, only then to crumble. He admits that this revival at 40 has been both a delight and a surprise.

And what of the evergreen Floyd? Masters champion back in 1976, runner-up to Faldo and Couples in recent years, his 71-70-70 defies his age and further proves how much experience is a part of this game.

Fluent Lara leads West Indies' Test fightback

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN ANTIGUA

IT HAS not taken long for West Indies' cricketers to come bouncing back after their unwonted defeat in the first Test match. Here in the second, it is Australia who are having to hold on. After being bowled out for 216 on Saturday, when they lost their last nine wickets for 134 runs, they had seen West Indies advance to 169 for three by mid-afternoon yesterday.

More ominously for them, Brian Lara was showing the sort of form that inspired his 375 against England on the same ground a year ago.

The nearest Australia had come to removing him was when Blewett was within an inch or so of throwing him out from mid-wicket. To the undisguised relief of Adams, Lara's partner, who had called him for the single, the video replay went against the Australians. Lara's batting was a remarkable combination of abandon and certainty.

If the Australians could have had one ball in the match again, it would have had to be the last before lunch on Saturday, a token bouncer from Ambrose that Taylor hooked inattentively down long leg's throat. At the time, West Indies were beginning to look just as woebegone in the field as they did in the first Test.

The transformation which came over them after first Taylor and then, in quick succession, Slater and Mark Waugh were out, was spectacular. It was as though an electric charge had run through Richie Richardson's side, the jolt supplied by Walsh. Walsh himself calls it being "fired up", and when it happens it makes him, even at 32, a real menace, his length consistently oppressive.

This is his seventh Test match of a winter in which he has so far taken 40 wickets. His total in Test cricket now stands at 262, third among West Indians, behind Malcolm Marshall and Lance Gibbs, and twelfth in the overall list.

By the time Walsh had finished with them on Saturday, the Australians must have known what a job they were going to have to keep in the game. It is not quite a perfect pitch, but it is more than good enough, and it is a fast-scoring ground.

Heavy bats and shortish boundaries are not entirely to Warne's liking, but Taylor had him on first thing yesterday, and after 40 minutes, Williams, taking a couple of paces, drove him straight to deep forward short leg. It was not long, though, before Lara and Richardson were reeling off a succession of glorious strokes.

Richardson had had a static start, not scoring his first run until the fourteenth over of the West Indies innings. He was very much feeling his way. In place of his broad-brimmed crimson sun hat he was wearing a helmet for the first time in his 78 Test matches, and until he found the confidence to play his natural game, it made him almost unrecognisable.

He and Lara had added 72 in only 13 overs when Richardson sliced Julian to the gully off the back foot. Soon afterwards, Lara reached his fifty with his eleventh four, another flowing off drive. He was picking up the bat high and almost hitting his back with his follow through, as Garry Sobers. It was a joy to watch, particularly as it was against Australia's attack, not England's.

To steady things down a little, West Indies promoted Adams ahead of Hooper, and for an hour he played along in Lara's wake. More than once, Lara's lateness of stroke encouraged McGrath to think that he had got past his defences, but it was merely Lara delaying his stroke so as to find a gap in the field.

McGrath was sufficiently unamused to tell Lara that he was, in fact, a lucky little so-and-so, except that he said so once in terms which brought a rebuke from David Shepherd, the English umpire who was standing in his first Test match in the Caribbean. But it was his West Indian colleague, Steve Bucknor, who gave Adams out, after taking an unconscionable time to make up his mind. Warne threw one well up, and it must have hit Adams, who was pushing forward, almost full on the foot. Warne had managed to keep Lara reasonably subdued, other than when he offered him the chance of a sweep.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Adams b Walsh	41
*M A Taylor c Walsh b Ambrose	37
D C Boon b Walsh	21
M E Waugh c Hooper b Walsh	4
S R Waugh b K Benjamin	15
G S Blewett c Murray b W Benjamin	11
†I A Healy c Walsh b W Benjamin	14
B P Julian b Walsh	22
P R Reiffel not out	22
S K Warne c Arthurton b Walsh	11
G D McGrath c Murray b Walsh	0
Extras (lb 12, nb 5)	16
Total	216

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-84, 3-89, 4-126, 5-126, 6-150, 7-168, 8-188, 9-204

BOWLING: Ambrose 14-5-34-1; Walsh 21.3-7-54-6; K C G Benjamin 16-3-58-1; W K M Benjamin 15-2-40-2; Hooper 2-0-18-0.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

*R B Richardson c S Waugh b Julian	37
S C Williams c Boon b Warne	16
B C Lara not out	82
J C Adams lbw b Warne	22
C L Hooper not out	0
Extras (b 6, w 1, nb 5)	12
Total (3 wkts)	169

K L T Arthurton, †J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh and K C G Benjamin to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-106, 3-168.

Umpires: S Bucknor (West Indies) and D R Shepherd (England).

Match referee: Majid Khan (Pakistan).

Higgins makes early running in Open final

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, already successful in the Skoda Grand Prix and International Open this season, gave himself a golden opportunity to add the Castella British Open snooker title to his recent collection at Plymouth yesterday.

The Scot, only 19 and one of the leading contenders for the world championship beginning on Friday, impressively established a 5-3 lead over Ronnie O'Sullivan in the best-of-17-frame final.

That left Higgins requiring only four of the remaining nine frames to collect the £60,000 first prize and move above his compatriot, Stephen Hendry, to first place on the list of world ranking points earned during the 1994-95 campaign.

O'Sullivan, attempting to become the only player in the tournament's ten-year history to win it for a second year in succession, had exhibited such unbridled confidence in recording a 6-4 semi-final victory over James Wattana on Saturday that he was considered a marginal favourite.

That seemed to be an accurate assessment when O'Sullivan flawlessly captured the opening two frames with breaks of 76 and 117. O'Sullivan finally committed a mistake early in the third frame. From distance he missed a difficult black, and Higgins, who had not scored with his usual consistency during a 6-2 semi-final defeat of John Parrott, was away.

A run of 55 was largely responsible for Higgins recovering to 1-2 and he did not concede a point in drawing level at 2-2.

That was tested again when O'Sullivan regained the lead at 3-2 with an 89 break, but Higgins then registered his fifth century of the event, 119, to bring up 3-3.

It was then that O'Sullivan, always prone to a temporary loss of concentration, began to look vulnerable. His ineffective safety shot in the seventh frame allowed Higgins to the table for a 62 break that secured a 4-3 lead and maintained the pattern of high-standard exchanges.

O'Sullivan compiled a 35 break from his initial scoring visit in the eighth frame but, having run out of position, he impatiently played a safety shot with little thought, which allowed Higgins to open a two-frame cushion.

Results, page 34

Higgins: impressive

Guildford cruise to a cup final showdown

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON will have a score to settle when they meet Guildford in the Hockey Association Cup final at Canterbury on May 28. Less than a month ago, Guildford beat Teddington 4-1 in the National League but still did not stop Teddington from winning the title.

Guildford qualified for the cup final with a 5-1 win over Isca, at Kings Manor School yesterday but the score did not reflect the balance of play. Isca got the corners, Guildford the goals.

Strong running by Barker and Cartmell enabled Hall and Markham to score for Guildford in the fifteenth and sixteenth minutes, respectively. Two short corners proved unavailing to Isca, who were reprieved when their goalkeeper, Lander, denied Jennings a goal from a short corner.

Isca raised their game in the second half and Meeke just failed to beat Priday, the Guildford goalkeeper, at close range. In the 56th minute, Morris set up a chance for Hall to score Guildford's third goal, but Isca's spirits were revived five minutes later when Robert Skinner reduced the lead. Late goals by Jennings and Markham settled the game.

Formby's dreams ended at home with a 4-1 defeat by Teddington. After keeping the holders at bay, Formby yielded ground when Wallis converted a short corner for Teddington. Two goals by Laslett and one by McGuire gave Teddington a 4-0 advantage, Capper replying for Formby from a late short corner.

☐ Tina Cullen led Hightown into the semi-finals of the AEWHA Cup yesterday, scoring both goals in their 2-0 defeat of Chelmsford. On Saturday, Hightown hammered Bracknell 6-0. Cullen scoring four times. Their main cup rivals are Leicester, who cruised past Winchester 7-0 thanks to three penalty strikes from the England under-21 captain, Lucy Cope. Nicki Wright added two and Sue Holwell and Sarah Blanks rounded things off with a goal each.

Bears' experience pays off

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE scent of Wembley does something to the Worthing Bears. The basketball veterans who finished a disappointing seventh in the Budweiser League were given next to no chance of retaining their championship trophy. After their 89-79 defeat of Thames Valley Tigers in the first leg of the quarter-final on Saturday, however, it is the league runners-up who are under pressure for the second leg at Bracknell on Wednesday.

However many injuries or suspensions they have, the league's oldest squad invariably patches itself up well for the play-offs.

With a third Wembley triumph beckoning, Alan Cunningham, Worthing's 40-year-old player-coach, went into his final home game with a troublesome knee, after a week of taking antibiotics for a chest infection and receiving intensive physiotherapy on a strained neck.

Yet, Cunningham, who will look for a more ambitious club next season — Worthing have rejected two successive invitations to compete in Europe — managed to score 16 points, one fewer than Herman Harried, who has a chronic knee condition. Of the 32 points collected by another veteran, Colin Irish — the favourite to succeed Cunningham — five came with three-pointers, three of them in the third period, when the Bears outscored the Tigers 30-11 to transform the tie.

As if to stress the capabilities of the under-thirties, Steve Nelson weighed in with 18 points against his former club.

The most serious competition for Irish as Cunningham's successor would come from his team-mate, the American, Cleave Lewis, should Worthing ever consult him. Lewis twice led Oldham Celtics to titles in the first division, but for the moment is happy to concentrate on playing. He returns from suspension on Wednesday, though his fractured cheekbone has not healed.

The Tigers were unimpressive on Saturday, apart from Steve Bucknall, who scored 25 points despite suffering from a groin strain. Unless contributions from his fitter colleagues improve drastically on Wednesday, the Tigers will miss Wembley for the second year running.

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Foley raises hopes for racecourse return of Danoli

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DANOLI, the most popular horse in Ireland, will have an operation today after fracturing a bone in his off foreleg while winning the Martell Aintree Hurdle on Saturday for the second successive year.

The prospects of the top hurdler racing again will not become clear for at least a month but Tom Foley, his trainer, said yesterday: "I will be very surprised if the horse doesn't come back racing. They are very happy with him at the hospital. The swelling is going down and he has settled in well."

The fracture to a cannon bone in Danoli's off-fore almost certainly happened as the seven-year-old jumped the second-last hurdle and yet he battled on bravely to defy the persistent challenge of the Paddy Mullins-trained Boro Eight to win the prestigious event.

Charlie Swan, who rode Danoli, said: "He was hanging all the way up the straight but winged the last two hurdles even though he was feeling something. He's unbelievably brave."

After returning lame to the winner's enclosure, Danoli was given a police escort to the Liverpool University's Leahurst veterinary field station where it was initially feared his fetlock joint had been fractured, which would have ended his career.

"We are hoping that the fracture doesn't go down into the joint itself and that it can be pinned," Foley added. "If anyone can put him back right that hospital can."

"Winning the race on Saturday meant even more than it did last year. He had a good few questions to answer and he did it really well. But the 12-hour journey back to Ireland last night was the worst of my life because I was not going back with the horse."

On a happier note Dubacilla, the wonderful mare owned and bred by Veronica and Henry Cole, is likely to be retired to stud after her fourth place in the Grand National.

The Coles, who farm at Beercrocombe, near Taunton, are hoping to send her to Ireland for a mating with Orchestra, who sired Dorans Pride, winner of the Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival last month.

"Obviously, we have got to talk to David Nicholson [her trainer], but we are leaning towards retiring her. We were over the moon on Saturday and it was a bonus that she ran into a place," Mrs Cole said yesterday.

"We had been terribly worried about the safety for her because she is such a valuable brood mare. The ground got faster and faster and our fear was she would not be able to lay up with the pace carrying 11 stone, but she was so courageous.

"She's been second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and fourth in the Grand National. Where do you go from there? It has broken my heart to see her having to carry big weights all this season. Some people think she is a madam because she gets behind in her races but she isn't: she just can't go fast enough.

Mrs Cole added: "When we went into the paddock on Saturday to let her go I could not look at her or touch her. I just thought this could be the last time. Everyone is begging us to have another season, which is understandable because people want to see her race, but I desperately want her to go to stud."

If, as expected, Dubacilla returns to the Cole's dairy farm in the next few days she will join Just So, second in last year's Grand National, who is enjoying his retirement. Both horses were bred by the Coles out of Just Camilla, a mare whom they bought in the late 1970s.

☐ Tony Dobbin, who missed the Grand National ride on General Pershing after sustaining a crushed vertebra in a fall at Kelso last Monday, is recovering well and has earmarked Ayr's Scottish National meeting at the end of next week for a return to race riding.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CANOVAS HEART (3.15 Folkestone)

Next best: Midnight Spell (4.15 Folkestone)

ED BYRNE

Danoli jumps the last ahead of Boro Eight, left, on his way to a gallant second victory in the Martell Aintree Hurdle on Saturday

McCarthy keeps up title pace

TIM McCARTHY rode two winners at the Puckeridge *point-to-point on Saturday* but was most fortunate to keep the race on Shannon Glen in the open (Brian Beel writes).

After dismounting McCarthy bypassed the scales and walked straight into the changing room. This usually results in automatic disqualification but, although the stewards were alerted, no action was taken. His other success came in the intermediate on Star Actor, who will now be aimed at Folkestone in a month's time.

Simon Andrews, the title leader, rode the runner-up, No Rebasse, in the open, but had earlier increased his season's total to 15 by winning the confined on Takeover Bid.

Alistair Crow remains two behind Andrews after Jolly Boat won the confined at the United, but he was beaten on two promising ex-Irish winners — Funcheon Gale fell, while Opal Gem was pulled up after weakening two out.

Yorkshire raiders were to the fore at the Burton with Simon Brisby taking the open on No Hand, Michael Sowersby the restricted on Dynamite Dan and Nigel Tutty a division of the maiden on Young Moss.

EDINBURGH

THUNDERER

2.00 Afisiak. 2.30 Slapy Dam. 3.00 Woodrising. 3.30 Shaffishayes. 4.00 Sharp N' Smooth. 4.30 Sharp Rebuff.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 WOODRISING.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

2.00 CARBERRY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,635: 5f) (6 runners)

1 (1) 0 ABDUCTION 5 E Weymes 8-5 ..... K Darley –
2 (3) 332 ARVEES 4 M Channon 8-5 ..... P P Murphy (5) –
3 (4) TROPICAL BEACH J Berry 8-5 ..... J Carroll –
4 (2) TINY ASTRO M H Easterby 8-1 ..... S Maloney –
5 (5) 0 ARSIAK 16 M Johnston 8-0 ..... T Williams –
6 (6) ROYAL RIGGER C Smith 7-10 ..... J Fanning –

7-4 Tropical Beach, 5-2 Afisiak, 3-1 Arvees, 5-1 Tiny Astro, 14-1 Abduction, 20-1 Royal Rigger.

2.30 COLONEL AND MAUDE MONTEITH'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,944: 1m 3f 32yd) (6)

1 (5) 4004 CHALDON HERRING 5 (G) T Barron 9-7 ..... J Fortune 85
2 (4) 1210 DURGAMS FIRST 18 (G) Mrs M Reveley 9-4 ..... K Darley 89
3 (6) -266 BOUNDARY EXPRESS 66 M Johnston 8-13 ..... T Williams 83
4 (1) 000- JACKMANB 205 W Kemp 8-12 ..... Dean McKeown 86
5 (2) 650- RAINDEER QUEST 172 (F) C Smith 8-10 ..... J Stack (5) 80
6 (3) -552 SLAPY DAM 6 Mrs J Ramsden 8-6 ..... K Fallon 90

6-4 Durgams First, 5-2 Chaldon Herring, 7-2 Slapy Dam, 6-1 Boundary Express, 10-1 Jackmanb, 14-1 Raindeer Quest.

3.00 INVERESK RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,645: 1m 16yd) (6)

1 (6) 502- EDEN DANCER 189 Mrs M Reveley 9-0 ..... K Darley 83
2 (4) 0-00 INDIAN RHAPSODY 11 M Channon 8-9 ..... R Hughes 86
3 (1) 0-33 LUCKY PEG 7 F O'Mahony 8-9 ..... J Fortune 75
4 (3) 000- MISS TRI COLOUR 186 F Lee 8-9 ..... M Birch –
5 (2) 02-4 RICANA 11 W Kemp 8-9 ..... Dean McKeown 87
6 (5) 00-3 WOODRISING 14 Lady Herries 8-9 ..... J Carroll 88

6-4 Eden Dancer, 2-1 Woodrising, 5-1 Ricana, 8-1 Lucky Peg, 12-1 Indian Rhapsody, 16-1 Miss Tri Colour

3.30 NORTH BERWICK MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,624: 7f 15yd) (4)

1 (3) 500- BOLLIN FRANK 205 M H Easterby 9-0 ..... M Birch
2 (4) 0- ROYAL DOME 306 M Ware 9-0 ..... J Fortune –
3 (1) SHAFFISHAYES Mrs M Reveley 9-0 ..... K Darley –
4 (2) 32-4 HI ROCK 7 M Camacho 8-9 ..... L Charnock 88

6-4 Bollin Frank, 7-4 Hi Rock, 5-2 Shaffishayes, 16-1 Royal Dome.

4.00 ABERLADY SELLING HANDICAP
(£2,512: 7f 15yd) (16)

1 (15) 302- GUESSTIMATION 116 (CD,F,G,S) J Pearce 8-10-0 ..... G Bardwell 86
2 (12) 0-06 SHARP N' SMOOTH 11 (B,CD,F,G) W Kemp 8-8-7 ..... K Darley 87
3 (9) 1522 JAMAICA BRIDGE 40 (G) S Norton 5-9-6 ..... J Bleck (5) 84
4 (7) 00-3 OBSIDIAN GREY 87 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Siddall 6-9-5 ..... D R McCabe (3) 86
5 (1) 000- MY GODSON 181 (B,F,G) F O'Mahony 5-9-4 ..... S D Williams 82
6 (2) 1533 AT THE SAVOY 9 (G) T Barron 4-9-3 ..... J Fortune 86
7 (10) 000- NEVER SO TRUE 217 M Ware 4-8-11 ..... K Fallon 82
8 (14) 00 SHROPSHIRE BLUE 623 D Nolan 5-8-8 ..... T Williams –
9 (16) 0-04 DUNDEELIN 11 (G) J Eyre 4-8-8 ..... R Lappin 83
10 (4) 24-6 WE'RE JOKEN 6 (G,S) J Berry 3-8-5 ..... J Carroll 89
11 (5) 0-00 NORD LYS 77 (G) F Lee 4-8-0 ..... M Birch –
12 (8) 00-0 PETAL'S JARRED 49J (CD,G) W Storey 5-8-3 ..... C Teague (7) 80
13 (11) 6540 BENTEN 21 (B) D Chapman 3-8-0 ..... S Maloney
14 (6) 000- BAMAKA HARA 179 (F) W Cunningham 3-7-12 ..... J Fanning
15 (13) 2344 VINDALOO 18 J L Harris 3-7-12 ..... Dale Gibson
16 (3) 05-3 FUNNY ROSE 11 P Monteith 5-7-8 ..... J Marshall 80

9-2 At The Savoy, 5-1 Guesstimation, Jamaica Bridge, 6-1 Sharp N' Smooth, 10-1 Obsidian Grey, 12-1 Dundeelin, 14-1 others.

4.30 TENNENTS SPRING HANDICAP
(£3,126: 7f 15yd) (11)

1 (11) 01-3 SHARP REBUFF 11 (D,G) P Makin 4-10-0 ..... J Fortune 96
2 (10) 000- SPANISH VERDICT 158 (C,D,F,G) Denys Smith 6-9-13 ..... C Teague (7) 91
3 (9) 10-0 PRINCE BELFORT 38 (B,D,F,G) J Eyre 7-9-11 ..... O Peters (3) 93
4 (6) 2012 ORTHORHOMBUS 7 (B,D,F,G) D Cosgrove 6-9-11 ..... M Wigham 96
5 (8) 110- DON PEPE 184 (CD,F,G) R Boss 4-9-11 ..... J Carroll 98
6 (4) 0-02 BOURRY 6 M Johnston 4-9-9 ..... K Darley 91
7 (3) 000- BLUE ERIT 177 (C,D,F,G,S) M Dods 9-9-2 ..... Dale Gibson 90
8 (1) 000- PEACEFULL REPLY 230 (F) F Lee 5-9-0 ..... M Birch 86
9 (7) 000- JUST FLAMENCO 235 (S) M Ryan 4-8-13 ..... D Biggs 95
10 (11) -042 FOUR OF SPADES 85 (B,D,BF,G) W Cunningham 4-8-10 ..... K Fallon
11 (2) 05-0 DIET 10 (V,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 9-8-4 ..... J Fanning

3-1 Orthorhombus, 7-2 Sharp Rebuff, 4-1 Bourry, 5-1 Don Pepe, 10-1 Spanish Verdict, Four Of Spades, 12-1 Prince Belfort, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Camacho, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; M H Easterby, 6 from 32, 25.0%; J Pearce, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J Berry, 32 from 160, 20.0%; M Johnston, 14 from 78, 17.7%; W Storey, 3 from 19, 15.8%; S Norton, 7 from 46, 15.2%; E Weymes, 3 from 24, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: G Bardwell, 5 winners from 16 rides, 31.3%; K Darley 38 from 136, 22.1%; J Carroll, 30 from 143, 21.0%; J Stack, 4 from 29, 13.8%; J Fortune, 10 from 79, 12.7%; O Peters, 4 from 33, 12.1%; S Maloney, 5 from 52, 11.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Folkestone: 2.45 Dakota Girl.

☐ Bin Ajwaad, trained by Ben Hanbury and ridden by Pat Eddery, landed the Ir£25,000 Sean Coughlan Gladness Stakes at the Curragh yesterday. "He has a lot of ability but things have to go right for him," Hanbury said.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER

1.45 Cedar Dancer
2.15 ENDLESS WAVE (nap)
2.45 Child Star
3.15 Canovas Heart
3.45 Artic Courier
4.15 Hakiki
4.45 Captain Marmalade

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.15 Endless Wave. 3.15 Canovas Heart. 4.15 MIDNIGHT SPELL (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR FORM FIGURES

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ..... S West (4) 98

Recorded number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — both course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in last race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.45 LEVY BOARD APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,312: 6f) (7 runners)

101 (2) 003040- BONITA 173 (T Hinchsliff) Mrs L Piggott 9-7 ..... Victoria Appleby (5)
102 (3) 0000- ILUSTRE 209 (G Steinberg) L Holt 9-7 ..... Kim Weaver (7)
103 (4) 00000- DECEIT THE SECOND 170 (N Bedack) G Lewis 8-4 ..... A Lakeman (3) 87
104 (7) 005-04 MISTER RAIDER 14 (Raiders Pines) S Mellor 9-1 ..... A Daly 93
105 (5) 50-6436 BLACK SHADOW 41 (P Tolman) P McBride 9-1 ..... G Faulkner 94
106 (6) 00032-1 HALF TONE 93 (B,G) (Mrs G Tremmerring) R Flower 8-12 ..... R Waterfield
107 (1) 636503- CEDAR DANCER 217 (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-12 ..... Jo Hannam 93

BETTING: 5-2 Half Tone, 7-2 Deceit The Second, 4-1 Mister Raider, 5-1 Bonita, 7-1 Black Shadow, 8-1 Cedar Dancer, 10-1 Ilustre.

1994: BOLD MICK 9-7 J Tate (3-1) D Murray-Smith 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BONITA 1-3l 11th of 16 to Elpidos in nursery at Yarmouth (1m, good). ILUSTRE 5l 15th of 17 to Wassing Shot in auction maiden at Sandown (5f, good to soft). DECEIT THE SECOND 3-4l 14th of 16 to Fame Again in nursery at Doncaster (7f, good to soft). MISTER RAIDER 1¾l 4th of 8 to Mustikas Princess in handicap here (5f, good). BLACK SHADOW 1¾l 3rd of 8 to Montague Dawson in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f) on penultimate start. HALF TONE beat One For Juanita short-head in maiden handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). CEDAR DANCER 2¾l 3rd of 15 to Red River Rose in selling nursery at Southwell (AW, 6f).
Selection: MISTER RAIDER

2.15 CHATHAM CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,519: 5f) (9 runners)

201 (6) 133210 DOLLY FACE 16 (D,F,G) (S Meadows) W Muir 9-3 ..... J Weaver 84
202 (3) 56310-0 ENDLESS WAVE 11 (D,S) (Mrs M Caine) M Bell 9-0 ..... D Harrison 87
203 (4) IL FURETTO (Mrs M O'Kelly) J King 8-13 ..... L Dettori –
204 (7) 050- KENCOL 185 (C Smith) A Foster 8-11 ..... R Fletcher (5) 91
205 (1) 01121-0 NOOSA 68 (D,F,G) (Mrs R Daniels) M Johnston 8-8 ..... J Fanning
206 (2) 26010-0 MY LADY BRADY 40 (D,G) (P Shorrock) G Oldroyd 8-7 ..... R Cochrane 91
207 (8) 00-0 LOGIE PERT LAD 23 (D Smith) J Bridger 8-5 ..... S Sanders (3) –
208 (9) 162034 BAILEYS SUNSET 11 (D,F,G) (G Bailey Ltd) M Johnston 8-3 ..... P Robinson 95
209 (5) 06-00 GOVERNOR'S LASS 11 (Mrs G Smith) S Dow 7-12 ..... Stephen Davies 76

BETTING: 5-2 Dolly Face, 3-1 Endless Wave, 7-2 Noosa, 6-1 Baileys Sunset, 8-1 Il Furetto, 10-1 Kencol, 12-1 others.

1994: NORDICO PRINCESS 8-4 A Mann (11-4) J Pitchering 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOLLY FACE beat Nordico Princess short-head in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. ENDLESS WAVE 1¾l last of 8 to Pompeo in handicap at Leicester (5f, soft). Earlier beat Kalya 1¼l in conditions stakes at Warwick (5f, soft) with KENCOL (5lb better off) 2¾l 5th. October 1994. KENCOL 1½l 7th to Dam in conditions stakes at Nottingham (6f, good). NOOSA 2¼l last of 8 to Go Hever Golf in handicap at Wolverhampton (6f, AW). Earlier beat Sound The Trumpet neck in nursery at Ripon (5f, good to firm). MY LADY BRADY 1¾l 7th of 10 to Utica Beat in claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). LOGIE PERT LAD 3¾l last of 11 to Abbey House in apprentice claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f). BAILEYS SUNSET 1¾l 6th of 17 to River El Hondo in seller at Leicester (6f, soft) with GOVERNOR'S LASS (5lb worse off) 12 12lb.
Selection: BAILEYS SUNSET

2.45 GRAVESEND HANDICAP
(£3,531: 1m 7f 92yd) (16 runners)

301 (2) 54000-0 DURSHAN 59 (F,G) (O Donnelly) J Jenkins 6-9-10 ..... L Dettori 80
302 (11) 3/11-04 BALLYMAC GIRL 3 (C,D,G,S) (L Bowles) J Bradley 7-9-9 ..... S Drowne (5) 90
303 (16) 420-022 RED WHIRLWIND 9 (Mrs J Peters) R O'Sullivan 5-9-7 ..... W Woods 93
304 (10) 03045-0 ZAHID 17 (G-Express Ltd) B Jones 4-9-6 ..... G Duffield 86
305 (7) 100040- LUNAR RISK 233 (F,G) (Capybara Ltd) Miss B Sanders 5-9-6 ..... W Newnes 81
306 (6) 046361- DAKOTA GIRL 12J (V,CD,S) (Dr J Leigh) G Balding 4-9-5 ..... N Varley (5) 93
307 (8) 640120- KINGSFOLD PET 30J (CD,S) (G Hall M Haynes) S Dow 4-9-4 ..... B Rouse 86
308 (12) 522230- FRUITFUL AFFAIR 25J (C,F) (Mrs J Ellis) T Thomson Jones 5-9-0 Stephen Davies 88
309 (9) 0/02/3- ACCESS SUN 102J (F) (Dalam Ltd) J King 6-9-0 ..... T Quinn 90
310 (4) 0000-11 JARAAB 39 (G) (S Ross) G Lewis 4-8-13 ..... A Whelan (5) 95
311 (3) 665/0-05 SNOW DREAM 45 (P Axon) M Ryan 5-8-11 ..... W Carson 80
312 (3) 322301- BY ARRANGEMENT 154 (C,F,G,S) S Woodman 6-8-10 ..... R Cochrane 84
313 (13) 400304/ SPORTS VIEW 10J (J Weaver) R Hodges 6-8-10 ..... F Norton –
314 (1) 55030-4 MINT A MILLION 38 (H Promotions Ltd) M Blanshard 4-8-8 ..... J Quinn 89
315 (15) 04/3643- SOQUAMA 217 (N Castleton) R Powar 5-8-5 ..... J D Smith (5) 90
316 (14) 6-32031 CHILD STAR 9 (G,S) (P Pearson) D Marks 6-8-4 ..... M Baird (5) 94

BETTING: 5-2 Jaraab, 5-1 Ballymac Girl, 7-1 Dakota Girl, 8-1 Red Whirlwind, 10-1 Kingsfold Pet, 12-1 Child Star, 14-1 others.

1994: KINGSFOLD PET 5-8-9 D Toole (3-1) M Haynes 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BALLYMAC GIRL 6l 4th of 23 to Moonlight Dance in handicap at Beverley (2m, good to firm). DAKOTA GIRL beat FRUITFUL AFFAIR (2lb worse off) neck in handicap over course and distance (good to soft) with CHILD STAR (3lb better off) 4¼l 4th. KINGSFOLD PET 2¼l 3rd of 8 to Marathia in handicap over course and distance (heavy) on penultimate start. Earlier beat Betty Kenwood 15l in handicap over course and distance (heavy) with ACCESS SUN (1lb worse off) 3½l 3rd. JARAAB beat Sleepitlie 1¾l in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m). BY ARRANGEMENT beat Springtime Alice 8l in claiming handicap here (2m 110yd, soft). SOQUAMA 4¼l 3rd of 11 to Matching Green in handicap at Warwick (1m 7f, good to soft). CHILD STAR beat RED WHIRLWIND (neck) in 12-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 2m).
Selection: CHILD STAR

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
Mrs J Cecil	5	9	55.6
A Stewart	4	17	23.5
J Dunlop	9	39	23.1
Mrs L Piggott	5	22	22.7
P Cole	10	55	18.9
R Akehurst	16	88	18.2

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
W Carson	10	36	27.8
R Cochrane	17	88	19.3
G Duffield	15	91	16.5
Stephen Davies	5	34	14.7
T Quinn	18	125	14.4
S Drowne	3	21	14.3

3.15 GILLINGHAM LIMITED STAKES
(£2,672: 5f) (9 runners)

401 (9) 60031-1 CANOVAS HEART 9 (C,S) (S Jones) S Jones 9-9-0 ..... G Duffield 89
402 (8) 003-010 HALLIARD 14 (D,S) (The Alex Hill Pond T Jones) 4-9-0 ..... L Dettori 88
403 (2) 340/000- BASHFUL BRAVE 276 (Mrs G Hay) J Payne 4-8-13 ..... M Rimmer 78
404 (7) 00-0500 COALISLAND 68 (V,D,S) (P McKeever) R Hogarth 5-8-11 ..... W Woods 72
405 (4) 220233' DISTANT DYNASTY 9 (B,G,S) (M Kirby) B Palmer 5-8-11 ..... Stephen Davies 90
406 (1) 04400-2 HARRY'S COMING 14 (CD,F,G,S) (R Hodges) R Hodges 11-8-11 ..... S Drowne (5) 88
407 (3) 221008- JUDGEMENT CALL 192 (D,G,S) (K Wooton) C Hawling 6-8-11 ..... N Carlisle 86
408 (5) -404050- MAZZARELLO 227 (D Hughes) R Curtis 5-8-11 ..... J Weaver –
409 (6) 232005- SUPERLATIVEMAXIMUS 304 (D,G) (P Bignell) J Bennett 7-8-11 ..... T Sprake –

BETTING: 7-4 Canovas Heart, 3-1 Distant Dynasty, 5-1 Halliard, 6-1 Harry's Coming, 7-1 Superlativemaximus, 10-1 Bashful Brave, 12-1 others.

1994: PALACEGATE GOLD 6-9-6 S Drowne (9-4) R Hodges 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

CANOVAS HEART beat Grey Glamour ½l in 19-runner handicap at Warwick (6f, good to soft) with DISTANT DYNASTY (1lb better off) 4l 3rd. HALLIARD beat Avers Hall 1¼l in 9-runner seller at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. BASHFUL BRAVE 2¾l last of 7 to Mister Jobson in handicap at Warwick (5f, good to firm). DISTANT DYNASTY 1l 3rd of 17 to Kildee Lad in handicap at Goodwood (5f, good to firm) with JUDGEMENT CALL 2¼l behind 4th of 20 to Fyfe in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). Super Sagacity in claimer at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. HARRY'S COMING 2¾l 2nd of 6 to Nordico Princess in handicap at Newcastle (5f, good). Earlier beat Kalya 1¼l in 9-runner seller at Lingfield (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. BASHFUL BRAVE 2¾l last of 7 to Mister Jobson in handicap at Warwick (5f, good to firm). DISTANT DYNASTY 1l 3rd of 17 to Kildee Lad in handicap at Goodwood (5f, good to firm) with JUDGEMENT CALL 2¼l behind 4th of 20 to Fyfe in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). MAZZARELLO 1¾l 13th of 14 to Seaside Mineral in apprentice handicap at Goodwood (5f, good). SUPERLATIVEMAXIMUS 11¼l 5th of 8 to Palacegate Gold in claiming nursery at Southwell (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. Selection: HALLIARD

3.45 DARTFORD MAIDEN STAKES
(£4,172: 1m 4f) (14 runners)

501 (13) 0/0 CATEMPO 11 (Now We Are Five) S Dow 5-10-0 ..... Stephen Davies –
502 (12) 202222- ARCTIC COURIER 159 (B) (Britam Promotions Ltd) D Cosgrove 4-9-12 ..... M Rimmer 89
503 (2) 0 CHOCOLATE CHARLIE 11 (R Yeoman) R Charlton 4-9-12 ..... T Sprake –
504 (3) 4-0 ISMENO 17 (Mrs A Upstall) S Dow 4-9-12 ..... W Ryan 80
505 (4) 0 MELLING 40 (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 4-9-12 ..... S Drowne (5) –
506 (8) 0/233- MOKHTAR 325 (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-12 ..... W Carson
507 (14) SHARAZI (Mrs M Schneider) D Cosgrove 4-9-12 ..... J Quinn –
508 (11) 2- TRAPEZE 547 (M Long) C Pocham 4-9-12 ..... J Reid –
509 (7) 0/ TADELLAL 573 (B Williams) M Dixon 4-9-7 ..... S Sanders (3) –
510 (6) 0- CHAHAYA TIMOR 240 (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 3-8-8 ..... D O'Neill (7) –
511 (9) 4202- CROWNED GLORY 182 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 3-8-6 ..... T Quinn 86
512 (1) 0- FEARLESS VENTURE 157 (S Woods) S Woods 3-8-6 ..... W Woods –
513 (10) 0 ANTARCTICA 16 (L Norris) P Kelleway 3-8-1 ..... Paul Eddery –
514 (5) 00085-5 EMMALA 9 (C Buckle) M Channon 3-8-1 ..... C Rutter 71

BETTING: 7-4 Mokhtar, 5-1 Crowned Glory, 8-1 Artic Courier, 10-1 Ismeno, 12-1 Chocolate Charlie, 14-1 Trapeze, 16-1 others.

1994: LIFE AT SEA 3-8-9 T Quinn (8-11 fav) P Cole 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

CATEMPO 32l 6th of 15 to Parkian Springs in maiden at Leicester (1m 2f, soft) with CHOCOLATE CHARLIE (1lb better off) 8l 12th and ISMENO (1lb better off) 4l 13th. ARCTIC COURIER 3l 2nd of 10 to Well Arranged in maiden at Lingfield (1m 6f, soft). MOKHTAR 6¼l 3rd of 15 to Mansoon in maiden at Newmarket (1m 4f, good). TRAPEZE neck 2nd of 10 to Glorious Film in maiden at Longchamp (1m 3f, good to firm). CHAHAYA TIMOR 16l 15th of 20 to Vertibiding Days in maiden at Newbury (7f, good). CROWNED GLORY 6l 2nd of 14 to Wade Terrace in maiden at Kempton (1m, soft) on penultimate start. FEARLESS VENTURE hangover first furlong, tailed off, last of 8 to Royal Photographer in claiming race at Doncaster (1m, soft). ANTARCTICA 20l 7th of 12 to Mansoon in maiden at Newcastle (1m 2f, good). EMMALA 20l 5th of 9 to Lost Corner in auction maiden at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f).
Selection: TRAPEZE

4.15 PRIVY COUNCILLOR MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £4,138: 6f 189yd) (13 runners)

601 (11) 5- BERKELEY BOUNDER 232 (B Beck) P Cole 9-0 ..... T Quinn 80
602 (3) -423-3 HAIKKI 17 (H Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 9-0 ..... W Carson
603 (12) 0- JOVE BOW 128 (E Eaves) P Mitchell 9-0 ..... T Ives –
604 (10) 03- NORTHERN FAN 131 (S Cousins Ltd) A Stewart 9-0 ..... G Duffield 74
605 (5) 2-4 ROKEBY BOWL 16 (P Mellon) I Balding 9-0 ..... L Dettori 88
606 (9) 2 SECRET SPRING 16 (D Wallis) R Charlton 9-0 ..... J Weaver 80
607 (7) SHARPICAL (Mrs M Watt) J Fanshawe 9-0 ..... D Harrison –
608 (6) 60- TENNYSON BAY 240 (Miss V Markowski) R Flower 9-0 ..... J-D Smith (5) –
609 (2) 00- ZINE LANE 194 (Mrs W Hern) W Hern 9-0 ..... T Sprake 69
610 (12) ZUND FLYER (V Fabri) G Lewis 9-0 ..... W Ryan –
611 (1) 6 CARE AND COMFORT 14 (Sir Philip Oppenheimer) G Wragg 8-9 ..... F Norton –
612 (4) 40- MIDNIGHT SPELL 185 (Wick Hall Stud) Mrs J Cecil 8-9 ..... Paul Eddery 96
613 (3) 4 PROLIFIC LADY 17 (M Golding) B Oldroyd 8-9 ..... R Cochrane 92

BETTING: 3-1 Haikki, 7-2 Rokeby Bowl, 9-2 Prolific Lady, 5-1 Secret Spring, 8-1 Berkeley Bounder, 10-1 Midnight Spell, 12-1 others.

1994: MAKHBAJ 9-0 W Carson (11-8 fav) P Walwyn 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

BERKELEY BOUNDER 4¾l 10th of 18 to Philosopher in maiden at Newbury (8f, good to firm). HAIKKI 7¾l 3rd of 12 to Blackburn in maiden at Doncaster (7f, good to firm) with PROLIFIC LADY 2¾l 4th. NORTHERN FAN 7l 3rd of 16 to Just Lucky in maiden at Southwell (AW, 1m). ROKEBY BOWL 2¾l 4th of 20 to Fyfe in maiden at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). SECRET SPRING 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Indiana in auction maiden at Lingfield (AW, 1m). ZINE LANE 4¾l 5th of 13 to Tu Ange in maiden at Salisbury (6f, 212yd, good). CARE AND COMFORT 1¾l last of 6 to Thomas in auction maiden here (6f, good). MIDNIGHT SPELL 10l 14th of 23 to Sow Cautious in conditions stakes at Doncaster (7f, good).
Selection: ROKEBY BOWL

4.45 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP
(Amateurs: £3,274: 1m 1f 149yd) (15 runners)

1 (15) 14/0- SHAARID 105J (D,F) (P Mitchell) I Balding 7-12-0 ..... A Balding (4) –
2 (11) 0-40104 ROMAN REEL 12 (F,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 4-11-11 ..... K Gollet (4) 91
3 (9) -00000-0 SHOOFK 14 (S) (S Dening) S Dow 4-11-6 ..... T Dell 98
4 (12) 20000-3 MONTONE 9 (F,G,S) (B Stasch) K Burke 5-11-5 ..... M Mamplet (4) 88
5 (2) 00400-0 AIR COMMAND 23 (G,S) (P Phillips) C Nash 5-10-10 ..... P Phillips (4) 80
6 (7) 01-0503 KRAYYAN DAWN 14 (G) (P Greatrex) R Hollinshead 5-10-7 ..... T McCarthy 90
7 (4) 00004 CHEVELEY DANCER 14 (D) (G Jackman) D Wilson 7-10-5 ..... G Appleby (4) 90
8 (8) 00535-0 PRECIOUS WONDER 9 (G,S) (B Butler) P Butler 6-10-3 ..... K Sagars (4) 86
9 (13) 455350 ROYAL ACCLAIM 17 (V,F,G,S) (J Bulkley) J Bridger 10-10-1 ..... R Johnson 85
10 (5) 236502 CAPTAIN MARMALADE 6 (G) D Thom 5-9-13 ..... P Pilchard-Gordon (4) 88
11 (3) 63-5060 ARRASAS LADY 21 (L Bass) J Low 5-9-2 ..... J O'Brien (4) 85
12 (6) 000-006 CHRISTIAN SPIRIT 7J (G) (B Pearce) B Pearce 5-9-7 ..... R Blyth (4) 81
13 (7) 5415/00- BROWN CARPET 301 (D,G) (R Del Rosario) C Horgan 8-9-7 ..... P Bennett 80
14 (16) /00/050 JONBEL 23 (J Pallin) T Clement 7-9-7 ..... V Lukanski (4) –
15 (14) -400000- STARLIGHT FLYER 139 (B,F,G,S) (T Wright) A Long 8-9-7 ..... T Waters (4) 47

Long handicap: Arrasas Lady 9-5, Christian Spirit 9-3, Brown Carpet 9-2, Jonbel 9-0, Starlight Flyer 9-0.

BETTING: 9-2 Krayyan Dawn, 6-1 Captain Marmalade, 7-1 Shaarid, Cheveley Dancer, 8-1 Roman Reel, Montone, 10-1 Shoofk, 12-1 others.

1994: DARING KING 4-10-11 T Williams (evens jt-fav) G Pritchard-Gordon 8 ran.

FORM FOCUS

ROMAN REEL 4¾l 4th of 7 to El Ayaadi in claiming stakes at Lingfield (AW, 1m 2f). SHOOFK last after last, pulling when 1¼l 2nd of 15 to Cosmopolis in handicap at Goodwood (1m 1f, good to firm). MONTONE 11l 3rd of 17 to Northern Celebration in claimer at Warwick (1m, good to soft). AIR COMMAND 1¾l 7th of 11 to Bellini Serenade in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m). KRAYYAN DAWN 1¾l 3rd of 14 to Oceans Shelter in handicap over course and distance (good) with CHEVELEY DANCER (3lb better off) 2¾l 4th and SHOOFK (2lb better off) 2l 5th. PRECIOUS WONDER 10l 9th of 15 to Game For A Bodyn in handicap at Warwick (1m 2f, good to soft) BOYAL ACCLAIM 3¾l 8th of 22 to Chilbrook Choice in lady riders handicap at Doncaster (1m 2f 110yd, good to firm). CAPTAIN MARMALADE 1¼l 2nd of 20 to Mister in apprentice handicap at Nottingham (1m, good). ARRASAS LADY 6¾l 7th of 14 to Arrasas in apprentice handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m). CHRISTIAN SPIRIT 10l 6th of 14 to Stanley Bay in amateurs handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m).
Selection: SHOOFK

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Aintree

Going: good to firm (Midmay and hurdles courses); good (Grand Nemonal course)

12.30 (6f flat) 1, Chinour (M Barnes, 14-1); 2, Invocation (11-2); 3, Sharp Conquest (10-1). Jigsaw Boy 100-30 fav. 10 ran. 1½l, nk. E Alston. Tote: £15.10; £3.10; £2.50; £3.50. DF: £47.60. CSF: £78.68. Tricast: £726.68.

1.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Danoli (Mr A Fitzgerald, 11-2); 2, Nemuno (25-1); 3, Batabenoo (5-1 fav). 13 ran. NR: Home Counties. ½l, 2½l. N Henderson. Tote: £7.50; £2.30; £12.60; £1.80. DF: £243.10. Trio: £629.50. CS

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 10 1995

Royal Athlete defies chronicle of misadventures to secure famous victory

Favourite son returns as reluctant hero

By Julian Muscat and Richard Evans

THERE was precious little fanfare when the gates of Weathercock House were flung open at 1.50 yesterday afternoon. Her stables in Upper Lambourn have served as a bunker under siege from the prying world outside, but now the redoubtable Jenny Pitman ventured out to embrace Royal Athlete from his heroics at Aintree.

Except that she will not quite see it that way. For this was not the return of a triumphant warrior, more the homecoming of a favourite son who was dispatched, with no little reluctance, to the battle front. Royal Athlete was back where he belonged, under the eye of a woman who has nevertheless added a new chapter to the history of the Grand National.

This great steeplechase has dominated her life. Her addiction was evident long before Corbiere displayed boundless courage to triumph in 1983. But she is now older and wiser. After Corbiere, she poured her heart out to the nation on television. There were tears this time: of emotion, of relief, yet she stopped short of the unbridled passion she wore on her sleeve 12 years ago.

So it was yesterday. Under bunting and balloons, she spoke of Royal Athlete's bravery, of Aintree's magic, of the strange coincidences that dared her to believe it could be her turn again. In searching for a brooch to wear, she came across the earrings she donned for Corbiere's victory, but had not worn since. And she dreamed she had won the National, but could not identify with which of her six runners.

But the tales were interspersed with an accumulated wisdom. Throughout the ordeal of priming her sextet, her son, Mark, was at her side. "Mark is very keen," she said. "It's difficult when you're young, but it's easy to get frustrated. You have to sit and suffer when things are not going right. There's no point in changing everything for the sake of it."

Earlier, her investment in youth manifested itself on her nephew, Tommy, whom she sought out the very moment she arrived from Aintree. And she was effusive in her praise of Jason Titley, 24, who handled Royal Athlete with a silken touch.

If the woman appeared restrained, her manor had already resounded to Titley's description of a celebratory party lasting all night. With him were 20 colleagues, among them Warren Marston and Rodney Farrant, both of whom had selected other Pitman-trained horses to ride in preference to Royal Athlete.

Titley established a jumping rhythm as early as the second fence. He recalled the moment, soon after halfway, when he identified Norman Williamson, aboard Master Oats, ranging alongside to dispute the lead. "I said a few things to Norman but I don't think he heard me," Titley said. "Then I wondered to myself when he was going to swallow me up."

For Gary and Liberty Johnson, the brothers who own Royal Athlete, that moment never came. Liberty, or "Libby", as he is known, could not bring himself to watch the race unfold. Only when Royal Athlete reached "the elbow", a point on the course close to the finish, did he strain for a view of the final strides.

Libby has clearly taken his lead from Mrs Pitman. On the morning after, when they made contact at Weathercock House, the body language of their embrace spoke of emotional relief, of an end to the ordeal. As Mrs Pitman had said: "The only people here to welcome the horse home are pure lovers of horses."

> 'Every year I've had him in training has cost me five of my life'

Doubtless with that in mind, she saved her biggest embrace for her vet, Alan Walker, who has tended to Royal Athlete with unswerving dedication.

For the most important nine minutes of his life, Royal Athlete lived up to his name having spent much of the previous dozen years unable to justify such a regal epithet. With his chestnut features gleaming in the spring sunshine, he strode majestically across Aintree's ancient turf and jumped the 30 forbidding fences with an elegance and rhythm which suggested he was the most perfect physical specimen. A real athlete.

Nothing could have been further from the truth. The talent and quality of the horse has never been in doubt, but all too often his susceptibility to any physical setback has prevented him from performing up to the level of his natural ability. He was like a Rolls Royce with a clapped-out chassis and punctured tyres.

The ailments that have blighted his career made Jenny Pitman almost too afraid to look into his box each morning. "Every year I have had him in training he has cost me five of my life."

After buying Royal Athlete, along with Garrison Savannah and Esha Ness, for Ir£10,500 as an unbroken three-year-old, the problems were not long in arriving. Urged to train him on artificial surfaces by his original owner, the once-raced fledgling talent had developed inflammation in a leg by the time Libby Johnson and his brother, Gary, bought him for £1,500 as a five year-old.

After a year off, he came back with mud fever, leaving his sensitive legs in a dreadful state. There were then strains to both front tendons, his suspect knees played up and he was variously pinfired, line fired and had his tendons injected.

In the Hennessy Gold Cup last year, he suffered appalling leg injuries requiring between 30 and 40 stitches after what Mrs Pitman described as an "X certificate" fall. "It was as though someone had been round his leg with a Stanley knife and the skin peeled off his leg like a sock."

Plans to run him in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, a race in which he finished third behind Jodami in 1993, had to be aborted only four days before last month's race when he developed setfast, a form of muscle seizure. And then as the Grand National approached he bruised his sensitive feet on stones on the gallops.

Mark Pitman, assistant to his mother, recalled yesterday: "We were always treading a thin line with him. We had to see how he was in the morning just to see how much work we could do with him."

And yet, in spite of everything including a wish by Mrs Pitman to save him for the Scottish National, Royal Athlete prevailed. The remarkable empathy of Mrs Pitman with her horses, the skill and expertise of her vet, Alan Walker, combined to produce the foundations for this fairytale.

Jason Titley, hitherto unknown outside the close-knit world of racing, was the perfect candidate to produce the happy ending.

Although he had never schooled the horse before and was having his first ride in the Grand National at the age of 24, a precocious talent had seen him victorious in his first ride at the Cheltenham Festival three years ago, the same season he won the Irish National and the Ladbroke Hurdle at Leopardstown.

The unpredictability of the result, with a 40-1 winner followed home by horses priced 16-1 and 100-1, has helped to restore the Grand National to its proper place in the nation's affections and returned it to where it belongs, the people. Twelve months ago, after the void race fiasco a year earlier, there was an understandable nervousness surrounding the occasion. The fact that the race took place was almost more important than who won.

TV action replay, page 24
Turnstile view, page 31

The unlikely success of Royal Athlete, the comeback by another "old crock," Party Politics, in second place, and the run of a lifetime by the amateur-ridden Over The Deel have revived the romance in the world's most famous steeplechase. Master Oats may have been the best horse in the Grand National, but the people's race has never been the sole preserve of excellence.

It is a race where glorious uncertainty prevails, where jockeys like Jason Titley become overnight heroes, and battle-hardened trainers like Jenny Pitman sob uncontrollably. Thank you, Royal Athlete.

☐ Graham Bradley expects to be out of action for a week after sustaining head injuries in a fall from the Charlie Brooks-trained Zeta's Lad at the third fence in the Grand National. Bradley, who was discharged from hospital yesterday, said: "I had about 20 stitches in my ear and I am still a bit sore, but I feel a lot better than I did."

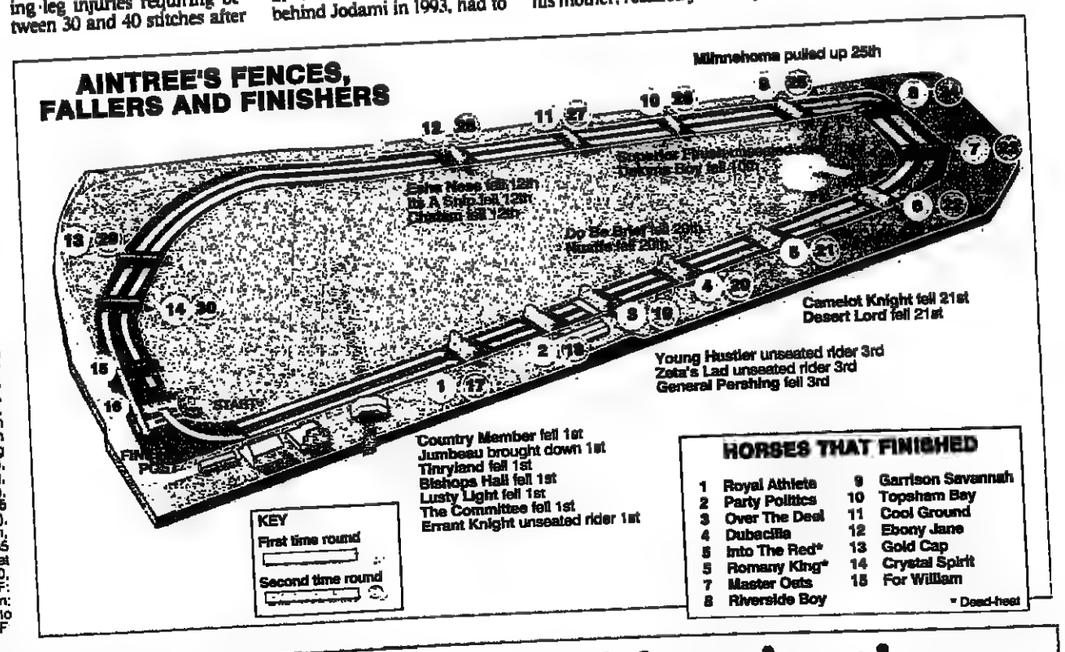
PHOTOGRAPHS: JULIAN HERBERT

Jason Titley drives out Royal Athlete to the finishing line at Aintree on Saturday to record a Grand National victory at his first attempt

Titley, Royal Athlete and Mrs Pitman enjoy yesterday's homecoming at Lambourn

BIG RACE RESULT

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE
(Grade III: £118,854: 4m 4f)
ROYAL ATHLETE ch g Roselier — Darjoy (G & L Johnson) 12-10-6 J F Titley (40-1) 1.
Party Politics br g Politico — Spin Again (Mrs D Thompson) 11-10-2 M Dwyer (16-1) 2.
Over The Deel ch g Over The River — Cehemane Girl (G Tobitt) 9-10-0 Mr C Bonner (100-1) 3.
Dubacilla b m Dubassoff - Just Camilla (H Cole) 9-11-0 D Gallagher (9-1) 4.
ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Master Oats, 10 Young Hustler (ur), 11 Country Member (f), Minnehoma (pu), 12 Crystal Spirit, Lusty Light (f), 16 Garrison Savannah, 20 Ebony Jane, General Pershing (f), Into The Red (5th), Nuaffe (f), Topsham Bay, 25 Chatam (f), 33 Superior Finish (ur), 40 Riverside Boy, Romany King (5th), 50 Cool Ground, Dakyns Boy (f), Esha Ness (f), Gold Cap, Tinryland (f), Zeta's Lad (ur), 66 Bishops Hall (f), Camelot Knight (f), Do Be Brief (f), 75 Errant Knight (ur), The Committee (f), 100 Desert Lord (f), For William, Jumbeau (bd), 200 Its A Snip (f). 35 ran. 7l, 6l, ½l, ½l. dd-ht. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £83.70, £17.80, £4.00, £49.90, £2.20. DF: £743.30. Tno: £26,437.70 (part won; pool of £31,244.38 carried forward to 2.45 at Folkestone today). CSF £541.31. Tricast: £41,023.25.



Muscat tips 40-1 winner

ROYAL ATHLETE'S victory may have been a surprise to many, but not to Julian Muscat (above), who led a great day for *The Times* racing team by tipping the 40-1 winner.

Muscat said: "The race looked ripe for an upset because of doubts about the leading fancies. Royal Athlete had a touch of class, an appealing weight and experience at the highest level."

Gerald Hubbard, *The Times* Private Handicapper, selected three out of the first four places with Royal Athlete, Party Politics and Dubacilla.

No shortage of applicants for National institution

ALAN LEE
At Aintree

Change is constant at Aintree, yet the soul of the place is unalterable. Beneath the veneer of straining development at this singular course and its institution of a race meeting, beneath the corporate spread and even the essentially overt security that has robbed the occasion of its informality, it casts the same spell as ever. Succumb to it once and you are perennially in its grip.

A dozen years ago on Grand National morning, an endearingly squiffy character tottered into the breakfast room at the Southport hotel which traditionally houses some of Aintree's "lifers" and bellowed "Three to one" at anyone on whom he could focus. This was actually the name of the horse he believed, wrongly, to be destined for glory that afternoon but it might as well have been the odds against him seeing out the day.

But I saw him again on Saturday, just as I have almost every year since. His eyes were bright, his face beamed. This, to him, is the best week of any year. But there are many like him, hopeless cases of Aintreeitis, and some are players rather than onlookers.

Why else would John White, who rode the winner of the void National two years ago and then retired to train near Wexford, in Ireland, retain his jockey's licence simply to partner the same horse, Esha Ness, back at Aintree on Saturday? And why else would the intrepid Tsuyoshi Tanaka from Tokyo arrive in Liverpool proclaiming a 20-year long-distance love affair with the race?

A victory for either would have been among the great National romances, but it was not to be. It was won by a horse most people had forgotten and a jockey most had not heard of. The race's first Japanese jockey failed to negotiate the first fence aboard The Committee and White broke his wrist on parting company with Esha Ness at the twelfth. Yet neither, I suspect, believed their pilgrimage to be in vain, for just to be at Aintree, let alone to take part, is what matters to the incurable.

One such is Michael Scudamore. The father of the former champion jockey, Peter, rode the National winner in 1959 and when, seven years later, his riding career was ended by a fall that punctured a lung, broke his jaw, disfigured his face and took the sight of one eye, it was not self-pity that consumed him. "My first thought," he recalls, "was that I would never jump Becher's again. I looked forward to the National meeting as a kid looks forward to Christmas."

Scudamore senior never lost the sense of infatuation, returning every April just to watch and wallow in nostalgia. But on Saturday, at 62, he rode the Aintree course again. It was only six furlongs and there were no obstacles to clear but the cause was good and, for Scudamore, it was the loveliest of memory lanes, so compelling that he sacrificed his regular two nights of socialising at the meeting, ate nothing for several days and trained on an exercise bike to make his assigned weight. "There is," said his wife, Mary, "no fool like an old fool." But you knew she was glad for him.

Everyone will be glad for Declan Murphy if he can ride any kind of race again. The fall he suffered at Haydock, 11 months ago, was as chilling as the one which ended Scudamore's career. In Murphy's case, it very nearly ended his life and the speed and completeness of his recovery has been astounding.

Thus far, the Jockey Club has refused to reinstate his licence. He can apply again on May 8, a year to the day after his fall, and will mark the occasion by walking, for charity, the 25-mile route of the ambulance which took him from Haydock to hospital.

At Aintree on Friday, Murphy stood alongside Josh Gifford, his loyally supportive trainer, after Deep Sensation's heroic battle with Viking Flagship. This is one of Murphy's rides, a horse that Gifford insists awaits his return, and watching him run had stirred once more the fires within him. "It is when I see my good horses run well that I know how much I am missing it," Murphy said.

Champion: glory

Once before, Gifford has stood by a stricken jockey and helped him climb the mountain of Aintree glory. That, of course, was Bob Champion, who rode alongside Scudamore on Saturday. If Murphy does return next season, and it would take a hard-nosed decision to deny him, Aintree should prepare for its most unimaginable adventure since Champion, and for a fresh consignment of lifetime converts.

West Ham show the spirit for survival

Nottingham Forest..... 1
West Ham United..... 1

By Pat Gibson

WEST Ham United know a thing or two about bursting bubbles. They have had their own pricked so many times that they were just the team to bring Nottingham Forest back to earth after a run of five successive victories that culminated in a 7-1 thrashing of Sheffield Wednesday.

There was a time when West Ham tried to play like Forest did on Saturday, but they know only too well what happens to pretty bubbles in the air. Now there is a pragmatism about their football that could yet keep them in the FA Carling Premiership.

They are still in the bottom four, and although five of their remaining matches are at home, their visitors include Blackburn Rovers, Liverpool and Manchester United. "They are all tough games on paper," their manager, Harry Redknapp, conceded, "but if we can fill Upton Park and turn it into an intimidating place to come and play, I don't care who we face."

Full results and league tables ....Page 30

Nor should he if his players continue to play with the spirit and commitment that they showed against a Forest side that had scored 19 goals in its previous five games and expected to continue in the same vein.

Forest looked as if they might when the languid Collymore took the ball from Bishop, surged forward and forced Miklosko into an instinctive save after only two minutes, but he never found it as easy again, and the longer the game went on, the more frustrated Forest became.

West Ham deserve great credit for that. They had not played for three weeks and were missing four players through suspension. But they had clearly worked hard on the training ground, and by getting nine men behind the ball they closed the supply lines to Collymore and Roy. "It went very much as I feared it might," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said. "Players are only human, and after five very good performances ending in a 7-1 win, you wonder how they will react. We never really got going. We didn't have the quality or the snap to pass our way through them."

It took a West Ham goal to jolt Forest out of their lethargy. Lyttle fouled Hughes just outside the penalty area and Dicks struck a stunning free kick through the Forest wall and into the top left-hand corner of Crossley's net.

Clark's reaction was to send on Lee and McGregor in place of Bohinen and Woan, and brute force succeeded where over-sophistication had failed when Forest equalised 12 minutes from the end.

The impressive Rieper managed to prevent an own goal as the ball rolled towards the line, apparently off Potts's arm, after Lee had tangled with him and Miklosko. From the resultant corner, however, Cooper's header rebounded off Lee, and Collymore thumped in his seventh goal in six games.

It was almost too much for Redknapp to bear as he bobbed up and down on the touchline, exhorting his players to even greater efforts, but he is resigned to more of the same as West Ham fight to preserve their status.

"It's murder, isn't it?" he said. "But it's so important to all of us. Some people can just sit there and watch, but when you have worked so hard, I can't help but get involved.

"Before the game, I'd have settled for a point, but once you get in front with 20 minutes to go, you feel you've got the three points there for the taking. I felt we were coping very well with what they had to offer."

Clark was more impassive, but he knows he still has work to do. "Europe would be a worthy reward for what the players have achieved this season, but we haven't got there yet," he said.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, D Phillips, L Bohinen (sub: J Lee, 72min), I Woan (sub: S McGregor, 72) — B Roy, S Collymore.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2): L Miklosko — K Brown, S Potts, M Rieper, J Dicks — M Hughes, M Allen, I Bishop, M Holmes (sub: A Whitbread, 88) — J Boere, A Cottee.

Referee: G Pot.

Beardsley scores the first of his two goals at St James' Park, from the penalty spot. The second was a candidate for goal of the season. Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

Norwich shot down by Beardsley's brilliance

Simon Barnes salutes the enduring talent that illuminated Newcastle United's 3-0 victory

There has not been a better goal all season. Peter Beardsley, of course: out on the right touchline, perhaps 30 yards from goal, looks up and across to see who is moving into the penalty box. Marshall, the 19-year-old Norwich City goalkeeper of some promise, advances perhaps half a pace, to be the more ready for the cross. And then the ball is in the net. It passed behind his back. Like a batsman stumped, Marshall was beaten by the quicker ball and hardly lifted the back foot, either.

What does it show? One, Beardsley's extraordinary awareness of footballers, an understanding of their movements and the intentions they reveal. And two, the craft to exploit this awareness, for that was some strike. Great power as well as great accuracy.

Graham Taylor could have watched the FA Carling Premiership game at St James' Park on Saturday and seen exactly, but *exactly* where his career as England manager went wrong. This is the most craftsmanly attacking player in England: the man Lineker wanted as his running mate. Had Taylor built around a Lineker-Beardsley attack, the story of England football would certainly have been different.

Beardsley is 34 and as good as ever, not the sort of talent that relies on physique. "Enthusiasm, ability, work-rate — well, I should just have a recording," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle United manager, said. "Put it on after matches when he plays like this." The problem would be wearing the tape out.

"I played a man-marker on him," John Deehan, the Norwich manager, said. "First time I've done that in 16 months of management. That's the biggest compliment I can pay him."

That goal was Newcastle's second, coming at the end of the first half. The first was a penalty, Newsome tripping Kitson and Beardsley converting. The second-half, with Norwich chasing the game, allowed Beardsley to give a master-class in the craft of football.

A swinging chest-down to Lee. A boldly delayed pass to set up Fox. A long punt out from goal: Beardsley chases and, at full speed, volleys a touch-back to Fox. An instantly taken free kick to Lee. Beardsley loses the ball, for once a poor touch: but the tackle-back comes in, clean, decisive, unhesitating. Any drawbacks to this wonderman? He scores goals, and great goals, but the two he scored on Saturday lifted his season's count to just 12 in the Premiership. He is a craftsman: he is not an out-and-out goal-getter.

Nor is anybody else at Newcastle. Kitson is profligate, and Fox is iffy. The third goal was wonderfully comic, with Kitson picking up a neat through-ball from Lee and looking like mad for someone to pass to. Fox was there, but somehow not quite there. After you, old boy. No, no, after you. Kitson accepted the dreadful truth that he would have to shoot, and this time, after four or five dreadful misses that afternoon, he took it manfully.

Beardsley is at his best alongside a six-yard box assassin: like Andy Cole, recently departed from Newcastle in a blizzard of money; like Lineker. Newcastle are putting the finishing touches to a season in which they promised everything and achieved . . . well, they should manage a place in Europe. "I believe we are the third best team in the country," Keegan said. "To finish lower would be unfair to the players."

But Norwich have plenty to think about. Hard to believe that they touched sixth in the Premiership this season. They have taken nine points from the last 15 matches, and have five games to go. They may have to win most of them to escape relegation. There are no points awarded for neat football and a cheery spirit. They face a scrap, and look a touch lightweight.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P Srnicek — M Hottiger, R Elliott, D Peacock, B Venison — R Fox, P Beresford, S Howey, R Lee — P Beardsley, P Kitson.

NORWICH CITY (4-1-4-1): A Marshall — J Polston (sub: J Culverhouse, 63min), J Newsome, C Bradshaw, M Bowen — S Prior — R Bishop (sub: D Sutch, 6), D Eadie, M Milligan, I Crook — A Ward.

Referee: M Reed.

Relegation permutations sway Wednesday's way

Hirst: attacking presence

Sheffield Wednesday..... 1
Leicester City 0

By Peter Ball

BARRING a colossal reversal in goal difference, this defeat at Hillsborough on Saturday confirmed that Leicester City will be relegated. Sheffield Wednesday's victory almost certainly means their own survival.

At the moment, Leicester could draw level on points with Everton or Southampton, the two clubs just above the relegation zone, if they win all their games while one of the other two lose all theirs. But Southampton's goal difference is minus eight, Everton's minus ten; Leicester's minus 41.

That figure tells its own story. They have conceded 71 goals and on Saturday they lined up with three centre backs, two of them internationals, and still Hirst and Whittingham got free headers eight yards from goal in the first 20 minutes even before another header, from Whittingham, produced the only goal of a nervous, error-ridden game.

It has been a hard baptism in the Premiership for Mark McGhee. But if he was unable to change their fortunes when he replaced Brian Little, he has at least changed Leicester's style. From a side relying on effort and long balls, they now try to play, passing the ball around pleasingly.

On Saturday they were a little unlucky not to get a point. Chris Woods, who was back in Wednesday's goal on merit for the first time this season, made three fine saves and when he was beaten, Robins's header was kicked off the line by Walker and Draper's drive came back off the bar and Wednesday were reprieved.

"I still think we need another win to be safe," John Sheridan said, but with so many clubs in danger, Wednesday now look to have just enough points to guarantee safety. Whether they deserve to is another matter, leaving a continuing question mark over Trevor Francis's Hillsborough future.

"It's not just the manager, we are all in this together," Sheridan said. He can say that again. Wednesday have been a soft touch too often. On Saturday, after the humiliation of the 7-1 defeat by Nottingham Forest, the side showed more drive.

A few days away apparently worked the oracle. Francis took the team to a hotel near Preston for three days with the implied threat that if they didn't beat Leicester they would have to spend the whole week there.

The manager remains relaxed and on Saturday his six changes paid off. Michael Williams brought an urgency to midfield his hyphenated namesake, Bart-Williams, lacked. Woods was excellent and Hirst, playing his first game since October after 80 minutes in the reserves on Monday, was palpably lacking match fitness but gave the attack presence.

Perhaps the other changes should have been made earlier. Francis's equanimity may be admirable, and Hirst's absence has deprived him of an outstanding forward, but for the amount of money he has spent he has assembled a team of under-achievers, a team that passes the buck as well as it passes the ball. The Hillsborough chairman's remarks last week — that Sheffield Wednesday will remain a Premiership club for a long time but managers come and go — sound ominous.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): C Woods — P Atherton, A Pearce, D Walker, I Nolan — C Waddle, J Sheridan, M Williams, K Ingleson (sub: A Sinton, 58min) — G Whittingham, D Hirst (sub: M Bright, 77).

LEICESTER CITY (3-4-3): K Poole — J Willis, C Hill, B Carey (sub: J Lawrence, 64) — S Grayson (sub: M Blake, 88), M Draper, G Parker, M Whitlow — D Lowe, M Robins, I Roberts.

Referee: G Ashby.

Smith goes on the defensive

Oxford United 1
Brentford 1

By Russell Kempson

AS CENTRE backs of some repute, albeit from a bygone age, Denis Smith and David Webb should have left the Manor Ground highly satisfied on Saturday. More often than not, the defenders had destroyed and the forwards had floundered. Oxford United had snuffed out Brentford; Brentford had snuffed out Oxford United.

Publicly, Smith and Webb appeared content. "It was a good defensive performance," Smith, the Oxford manager, said. "I thought we defended well," Webb, the Brentford manager, said. Privately, the furrowed expressions told it all. It was stalemate neither side wanted.

Webb captured the essence of an uninspiring draw, in the Endsleigh Insurance League second division, when he added: "Earlier on in the season, I'd have said it was a point gained rather than two lost. Now, I'm not so sure." Precisely. April, in any league, is a time for victory, of any description, as the graft of the previous eight months begins to bear fruit or failure.

Thus, the Manor witnessed frustration for players, managers and supporters alike. Brentford, defeated only once in 23 matches, lost their leadership of the second division to Huddersfield Town. Oxford, without a win in five games but in the fourth play-off place, allowed Crewe Alexandra to close on them.

Highlights were few and far between. Dyer turned smartly, after Elliott's flick-on from Gilchrist's throw-in, to hook Oxford into a 25th-minute lead. Taylor prodded in his 23rd goal of the season, a minute before the interval, to equalise. Grainger carried a lovely free kick against the home crossbar early in the second half. Otherwise, there was no way through the rugged rearguards. Elliott and Gilchrist formed an impenetrable barrier while Bates and Ashby did likewise for Brentford. Any inkling of imagination was lost amid the general melée in midfield.

There was also the bizarre 20-minute cameo from Wanless, 21, the Oxford utility player. He came on as a substitute and was fouled three times, which earned bookings for Ashby, Statham and Bates. He was cautioned for preventing a free kick from being taken quickly, and then sent off for clumsily tripping Abrahams.

Smith, wisely, declined to elaborate on the somewhat harsh judgment of Andy D'Urso, the referee. "He's the one who makes the decisions," he said. Nine days ago, during the 3-2 defeat away to Crewe, Smith was dismissed from the dugout for remarks directed at the officials.

On Saturday, after a midweek consultation with the Oxford board of directors, he chose to sit in the stand throughout. Today, the Football Association will decide whether to charge him with bringing the game into disrepute. If it does, he is more than capable of mounting a strong defence.

Paul Gascoigne, the England midfield player, returning from a year's absence due to a fractured right leg, gave the crowd glimpses of his old form as he lasted the entire match for Lazio, who beat Reggiana 2-0 yesterday.

OXFORD UNITED (4-3-3): P Whitehead — L Robinson, M Elliott, P Gilchrist, A Rogan — D Smith (sub: P Wanless, 63min), M Lewis, A Dyer — S Massey (sub: R Ford 70), P Moody, C Allen.

BRENTFORD (4-1-3-2): K Dearden — C Hutchings, J Bates, B Ashby, M Grainger — B Statham — P Abrahams, P Smith (sub: D Munden, 82), P Stephenson — R Taylor, N Forster.

Referee: A D'Urso.

Tired Arsenal outgunned

Alyson Rudd watched Queens Park Rangers' 3-1 defeat of Arsenal

HAVING assisted Frank Skinner and David Baddiel with their dig at the increasingly infamous sardines speech of Eric Cantona, Les Ferdinand is unlikely to sign for Manchester United, but he is expected to sign for someone soon. For almost as long as he has worn a hooped blue and white shirt, Ferdinand has been considered too classy for Queens Park Rangers. QPR, it is argued, most recently by Rodney Marsh, are too small to shackle a centre forward who can still improve both domestically and at international level.

Arsenal are favourite to capture Ferdinand next season; however, not only is he too classy for BBC2's *Fantasy Football League*, he is also too good for Arsenal.

On Saturday, as QPR ran rings and hoops around Arsenal, few members of Ray Wilkins's team could have wished to be playing for the other side. QPR simply played their strength and it was enough both aesthetically and functionally to outwit the visitors.

QPR's central midfield has often been weak but with Holloway and Barker slogging away to compensate for their deficiencies in niceties, both Sinclair and Impey were able to gambol through the mutton of the Arsenal flanks. "We played some wonderful football," Wilkins said.

Impey volleyed QPR into the lead after 28 minutes, connecting with one of Ferdinand's many intelligent headers. Had Ferdinand been playing for the opposition and relying on Helder's crosses, he would not have been able to head the ball at all. Not once was the Dutchman able to lift a cross higher than Wilson's shin pad.

After an hour, Sinclair pranced past Merson and Winterburn to set up Gallen for QPR's second and Ready scored his first of the season after Penrice's shot had hit the upright.

Arsenal's consolation goal in the final minute, Adams heading in Merson's free kick, did not, as Wilkins suggested, mar his team's performance but served as a reminder that Arsenal were still on the pitch. If Stewart Houston wants to believe his team was too tired to give its best, then so be it.

No doubt Arsenal's Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg against Sampdoria was emotionally and physically draining, but the team had Friday to recover and Highbury to Loftus Road hardly constitutes an arduous journey. Success is necessarily demanding. If the paid athletes of Arsenal cannot cope with two matches in three days then they might be better off locking themselves indoors to munch on their Easter eggs than turning out for this weekend's tough premiership programme.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Roberts — C Wilson, K Ready, A McDonald, R Brevett — T Sinclair, I Holloway, S Barker, A Impey — L Ferdinand, K Gallen (sub: G Penrice, 74min)

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn — P Merson, S Schwarz, S Morrow (sub: D Hillier, 62), G Helder — I Wright, J Hartson (sub: C Kiwomya, 76)

Referee: P Don

Mullen's misery mounts

Keith Pike sympathises as Burnley flounder in a 3-1 defeat at Southend

MORE than an hour separated the final whistle and Jimmy Mullen's emergence from the dressing-rooms at Roots Hall on Saturday, but the Burnley manager had still not been able to rid himself of the hurt, haunted expression that adequately reflected his team's position in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

Seven points adrift of safety with five matches to play, Mullen knows that relegation now appears inevitable for a club that swept into Wembley 11 months ago, having finished the length of the Aintree run-in behind the second division automatic promotion places, and swept out again on a claret and blue tide of expectancy after victory over Stockport County. The promotion play-off system has much to commend it, but once again it had produced a side not good enough to go up on merit, and not good enough to stay up as a result.

That was Burnley's second promotion in three seasons under Mullen — not bad for a club that was within one defeat of losing its league status in 1987 — but his previous success might count for little once relegation is confirmed. "Players get managers the sack," Mullen said, and his had just conceded two goals in the opening six minutes, and effectively the match, against Southend United.

The gulf between second and first divisions, Mullen conceded, had been huge, and outside Turf Moor in particular, Burnley have proved a soft touch. They have not won in 14 away games since October, taking four points out of 42. This was a vital match, but again this claret did not travel well. Once Dublin's slide-rule pass had allowed Jones to give them a fifth-minute lead and Hails had punished a statuesque defence less than 45 seconds later, Southend had the game in their pockets, and their own salvation within reach.

Battersby, 19, and with his proud parents watching from the stand, marked his first full league match with the goal of the game, a volley on the turn, to make it 3-0 in the 54th minute, at which point Mullen promptly withdrew both his strikers. The fact that Nogan, one of the substitutes, was to score a meaningless late goal could not make sense of such a bizarre decision. Perhaps the pressure is getting to him.

Southend coasted home, and it will do Burnley's morale no good whatsoever to learn that Steve Thompson, in his ninth game as the Essex club's caretaker manager, rated this their worst performance under him. But as players get managers the sack, they can also get them employment. Southend, beaten in only one of their past seven games and, in Thompson's view, one win from safety, are unlikely to look any further when they go for a full-time appointment.

SOUTHEND UNITED (4-3-3): S Royce — P Gridelet, K Dublin, M Bodley, C Powell — R Whelan, A Sussex (sub: D Roche, 83min), S Tilson — J Hails, A Battersby (sub: D Perkins, 90), G Jones.

BURNLEY (4-4-2): M Beresford — G Parkinson, S Davis, M Winterburn, C Winnicombe — E McMann, A Randall, J Hoyland, C Brass — D Eyres (sub: K Nogan, 55), P Shaw (sub: L Robinson, 55).

Referee: G Barber.

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Defender's extra-time header earns replay as Manchester United keep tenuous hold on FA Cup

Pallister pulls plug on Palace's semi-final party

Crystal Palace 2
Manchester United 2
(aet; 1-1 after 90min)

BY PETER BALL

EVERTON must wait until Wednesday to discover who they will meet in the FA Cup final. Crystal Palace and Manchester United battered one another to a standstill yesterday as United twice came from behind in a gruelling cup-tie to earn a replay back at Villa Park.

So, United cling on to the hope that they will return to Wembley to defend the Cup they won last year. Palace deserved at least a draw yesterday, relying on their resilience rather than any superior skills to get a second chance. With Houghton covering every inch of his old

Everton triumph 23
Results and tables 30

stamping ground, Dowie battling fiercely and the pacey Armstrong always threatening to expose United's shaky defence, Palace held their own. Like Oldham Athletic last year, however, they may find that their best chance has gone.

United can hardly play as badly again as they did in the first half yesterday. With the Premiership title slipping away, the realisation that the Cup is their most realistic hope of a trophy fuelled their urgency, and after half-time they picked up their game to force Palace back. Even then, their frailty at the back was alarming.

The signs grow that the events of the season are beginning to take their toll. With Cantona suspended, Cole cup-tied and Kanchelskis injured or disaffected, the old fluency is no longer there. Hughes had a poor game and Ince, not for the first time in recent weeks, had a quiet one when his drive and leadership were needed most. The court case hanging over him may be affecting him more than he lets on.

But, of all the absentees, the one United missed most was their captain, Steve Bruce. His importance to United's defence, as leader and organiser, became more apparent by the minute. He will return from suspension for the replay; without him, the central defence was often in disarray.

The game had a competitive beginning, the fierceness of the challenges matched by the pace, ensuring that there was little flowing football. There was one early moment to savour as Giggs, spotting Martyn off his line, lobbed him from the halfway line, but the goalkeeper got back to take the catch a yard from his line. After the match, Martyn went to hospital for treatment to a hand injured in the opening minutes.

When clearer chances arrived in the first 20 minutes, Keane, deputising for Bruce, was involved at both ends. First, he got free to put a firm header just past the post as he met a free kick. His contribution at the other end was less convincing as he allowed Dowie free for a looping header that offered little danger, but had Schmeichel arming harsh words at his errant defender.

The next error was by Pallister, who missed a free kick, but Armstrong just failed to control the ball. The warnings, however, were unavoidable, and just after the half-hour, Palace took the lead they had threatened.

Under pressure from Dowie, Schmeichel only palmed out Salako's hanging cross. Southgate recovered it and returned it to the far post, where Salako outjumped Neville to head back over Schmeichel for Dowie to apply the finishing touch almost on the line.

A minute later, Armstrong burst clear of Keane, but he put the ball wide as Schmeichel came out, and United held on until the interval.

United quickly regrouped. Butt coming on to strengthen the midfield. Giggs, who had moved into the centre after the goal, now went to try his luck on the right, and became an increasing influence.

Palace, however, defended now with might and main, pulling people back and flinging bodies in front of everything. It looked as if they would hold on, and on a quick break Dowie could have put them two ahead. United, however, were beginning to create chances. Martyn saved from Giggs and Sharpe, but the goalkeeper was left helpless as Irwin's free kick went over the wall and into the top corner.

The ebb and flow of play in the previous ten minutes, and the noise cascading around Villa Park from the United supporters, suggested that their team would now take over. Palace, however, found renewed energy, and although they were second best they still looked dangerous on the break, Armstrong shooting across goal as Houghton released him. But it took a brilliant save by Martyn to stop Giggs winning the game in normal time.

A minute into extra time, United fashioned one of their best moves, and McClair stabbed Sharpe's cross just wide of the post. Moments later, instead of being ahead, United were behind for the second time. As Southgate hooked the ball forward to expose United's defence again, Armstrong went racing between Keane and Irwin to beat the advancing Schmeichel.

So, for the second year running, United found themselves trailing to relegation candidates in extra time. Last year, Hughes saved them with one of the great goals of his career. This time the rescue was more prosaic. Pallister rising to glance Neville's long throw past Martyn.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, P Irwin, G Pallister, D Irwin — D Beckham (sub: N Butt, 46min), P Ince, L Sharpe, R Giggs — B McClair, M Hughes.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): N Martyn — D Patterson, R Shaw, E Young, C Coleman (sub: D Gordon, 46) — R Houghton, G Southgate, D Pitcher, J Salako — C Armstrong, I Dowie.

Referee: D Ellery.

Irwin acclaims Manchester United's first equaliser at Villa Park yesterday. Sharpe, Keane and McClair move in to congratulate him. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths

Leeds find willing leader in Deane

Liverpool 0
Leeds United 1

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

AFTER touching the heights at Wembley a week ago, Liverpool gave an abominable display in this FA Carling Premiership game yesterday. Perhaps their players are tired, having played three matches in seven days. Perhaps the knowledge that they have qualified for European football next season has sapped them of their will. Either way, they were abysmal.

A first-half goal by Brian Deane gave Leeds United their first victory at Anfield for 23 years and compensated them for a home defeat at Liverpool's hands last December. Leeds were happy with that, and did not exert themselves greatly to find a second although McAllister struck the bar with a lob, and Speed shot just wide from 16 yards. They too might return to Europe if they keep on winning games as they have been doing.

Deane had moved to a withdrawn position on the left and ended the game almost as an old-fashioned left half, not the best place for a man so short of the basic skills. He took his goal by moving swiftly in from the left after Speed's shot had rebounded from the post, and considerable were his celebrations.

Liverpool were tame, too tame. The game was 56 minutes old before one of their players conceded a free kick, which says something about their mood. Throughout the afternoon they were second to the ball or, in the case of Walters, gave the impression they did not want it much at all.

How on earth Walters remained on the pitch for 71 minutes is a mystery. Now that Liverpool have signed Mark Kennedy from Millwall, who is a naturally left-footed player, he is surely the obvious contender to fill the space left by the injury to Bjornebye. Instead, Walters began the game although, not surprisingly, he failed to complete it. For that relief, the Liverpool followers thought, much thanks.

When Kennedy came on he looked twice the player Walters is, and almost retrieved a goal in the most spectacular manner. Taking the ball from a free kick that he had earned when Palmer fouled him, he looked up and from 30 yards, perhaps even 35, directed a ferocious left-footed shot that beat Lukic and clattered away off the bar. Fowler chased the ball but could not get his head over it, and the chance was lost.

It was not Fowler's day. When he is not scoring goals he can appear a most ordinary player, unaware of team-mates and unable to supply the sort of passes and crosses that he expects from them. He brought a good save from Lukic in the second half but, put in by Rush before half time, he dithered when he is usually most sharp.

Once again McManaman was the Liverpool player most likely to unpick the defence, and he wilted in the second half as Leeds became ever more obdurate. Pemberton and Wetherall held firm and Palmer, in that ungainly way, put his foot in when not fouling people. He was fortunate not to concede a penalty in the first half when he ran across Walters. "How we didn't get a penalty I'll never know," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "We deserved something from the game."

Liverpool ended the game with Ruddock in attack. His header brought a plunging save from Lukic but the ball would not run for them when they needed it. Babb did not help their cause when he received a short corner in the last minute and promptly surrendered possession. Good tackler though he is, Babb's ability on the ball falls short of what people can reasonably expect of a man who cost £3.6 million.

Jones and Deane were booked for a bit of argy-bargy off the ball in the first half. Otherwise it was a cleanly contested match, if not a good one. Liverpool are winding down and Leeds are winding up. It is hard to say which is the least expressive.

"The most pleasing aspect was to come to Anfield and be in control and composed at all times," the Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, said. "We looked confident when we had the ball and even when we lost possession. The last 10 games we have been running on average of two points a game and that is encouraging."

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — R Jones, N Ruddock, J Scales, P Babb — S McManaman, J Redknapp, J Barnes, M Walters (sub: M Kennedy, 71min) — I Rush, R Fowler.

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic — G Kelly, D Wetherall, J Pemberton, A Dorigo — C Palmer, G McAllister, G Speed, B Deane — R Wallace, A Yeboah.

Referee: K Burge.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Blackburn	36	82	+43	WDWWW
2	Manchester Utd	36	74	+40	WDLWD
3	Newcastle	36	67	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Nottm Forest	37	64	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Liverpool	34	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Leeds	36	59	[illegible]	WLDWW
7	Tottenham	34	52	+9	WDWDL
8	Wimbledon	35	51	-12	LWWWW
9	[illegible]	35	50	[illegible]	LWWLW
10	[illegible]	37	46	-4	LLLLW
11	[illegible]	36	[illegible]	-1	LDLWD
12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2	LLLWL
13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-17	DDWLL
14	Coventry	37	[illegible]	-13	LWLLL
15	Norwich	36	[illegible]	-6	WLLLD
16	Chelsea	35	41	-10	LDWLL
17	Manchester City	34	39	-8	DLWWL
18	Southampton	35	39	-10	DLDWL
19	Everton	35	38	-10	DWLWD
20	Crystal Palace	35	38	-11	LDDWD
21	West Ham	37	24	-31	LLLWL
22	Leicester	36	23	-40	LLLLL
23	Ipswich	35	23	-40	LLLLL

Weekly change: Up — Stayed the same — Down

* Tottenham to be deducted six points at end of season

Airdrie strike another blow for equality

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

Cup football always has been a version of class warfare. The prosperous are nervous, forever dreading that a raid is about to be launched. Some fears are soundly based. On Saturday, Airdrieonians, residents of the Bell's Scottish League first division, beat Heart of Midlothian 1-0 at Hampden in the semi-final of the Tennents Scottish Cup.

The Lanarkshire side meets either Hibernian or Celtic, who must replay their tie tomorrow after a goalless draw on Friday, in the final.

The unexpected has virtually become a part of the Airdrie timetable. They do not so much enter a cup competition as go on the rampage, and victories over premier division opposition have been numerous. Hearts may even have believed that they had already swallowed their dose of ignominy.

The Edinburgh side also lost to Airdrie, who are managed by the former Hearts manager, Alex MacDonald, in the last four of the same competition in 1992. That year, only Rangers refused to succumb, winning the final 2-1. Curiously, all the escapades of the first division team seem to have been accorded a low entertainment rating by the public.

At their temporary home in Cumbernauld, rented while a new stadium is planned, Airdrie often attract just 1,000 people. Even for an event of national significance they could lure only three times that number to Hampden. The club's homeless state and extreme poverty offer a partial explanation, but there is surely no other club in the country that would be so poorly supported on such an occasion. Airdrie are close to disproving the assertion that romance is good box office.

It sometimes appears that the club's fires are stoked by the adversity and indifference. The players, who train at a public park, are a tightly knit band, never likely to encounter the razzmatazz and wealth that have been known to tear a team apart. Impassioned co-operation allowed Airdrie to withstand all Hearts' efforts in the second half.

Resistance alone, however, can never be enough for victory. It was Airdrie's precision and control, before the interval, that determined the outcome. Paul Harvey, in particular, displayed verve and wit. Careers can go wrong for reasons wholly unrelated to a deficit of talent. Harvey, while with Manchester United, was, for instance, the kind of youngster to get involved in an argument with the manager, Alex Ferguson. On Saturday, however, the uproar was imposed on the Hearts defence.

The match's single goal, after 29 minutes, came when Millar stopped Harvey from running through with a tackle that forced the ball to Andy Smith on the right. His piercing cross was headed home from close range by Steve Cooper. Given the parsimonious nature of Airdrie's defending, there was an air of finality about the episode.

MacDonald's team are far from being the only members of the first division with a capacity to defeat illustrious opposition. Raith Rovers have already won the Coca-Cola Cup this season. Of the premier clubs, it sometimes appears that only Rangers can be relied upon to demonstrate their superiority.

On Saturday they virtually clinched their seventh successive championship with a 3-2 victory that leaves Aberdeen even more isolated at the foot of the table. Only a single point is needed to complete the mathematical niceties for Rangers.

In an agreeable cup semi-final on Friday, neither Celtic nor Hibs could find the instant of precision to decide the match. Tommy Burns's team, generally dominant, did have a penalty saved but the Edinburgh side had chances, too. Unlike Airdrie, both contenders seemed a little troubled by the knowledge of what was at stake. Premier division clubs can be burdened by ambitions while lacking the class to fulfil them. The frustration of Hearts, in particular, showed on Saturday when John Robertson was sent off for elbowing Anthony Smith.

As the Hearts players left, they were raucously jeered and questioned by supporters. Checking on Airdrie's location has always been a simple business. You need only follow the trail of despondency and recrimination left in their wake.

Phillips owns up to error

Andrew Longmore on a manager's empathy with a costly mistake

NOBODY could gain much satisfaction from a sporadically lively game in which Barnet and Mansfield Town drew 2-2 on Saturday, other than the connoisseur of the goalkeeping howler and those old enough to remember the days when the respective managers, Ray Clemence and Andy King, met regularly in Merseyside derbies.

Mansfield gained more than their promotion-chasing rivals from a point, but had not Gary Phillips, his compass all askew, palmed the ball elegantly into his own net 15 minutes from the end, it would have been Barnet set fair for the Endsleigh Insurance League third division play-offs, not the visitors to Underhill, the highest scoring team in the land.

Clemence turned away with a look of pure vinegar on his face as Phillips, also his assistant manager, undid all his team's good work in two seconds. Phillips said he thought he was beyond his far post when he stretched for Dillon's corner and was trying to deflect the ball behind. In fact, he was barely beyond dead centre, and the result was a comic slow motion own goal of the sort only goalkeepers can truly understand.

Therein lay the problem for Clemence, who was doubtless juggling two thoughts. One, "I could have done better than that" (a neat two-handed catch at the dug-out suggested as much). Two, "I know how it feels." Even Clemence dropped the odd clanger for Liverpool and England.

"Gary was the first to hold up his hand and say sorry," Clemence said. "He has saved Barnet on countless occasions before." But there are mistakes and critical mistakes. This was one of the latter, a moment on which Clemence will dwell if his side misses out on the play-offs.

The added woe for Barnet was that their defence had restricted the free-scoring Mansfield forwards to the briefest sight of goal, largely due to the solid defensive work of Primus and Mansfield's inability to cope with the sloping pitch and the strong wind, despite practising on a similarly inclined council pitch earlier in the week.

As expansive as Las Vegas gamblers in mid-season, they have turned penny-pinchers in the past month, losing confidence as well as points. King is a graduate of the Alan Ball school of encouragement too, though his pitch is more tenor than soprano, but one wonders whether cries of "get up, you great wimp" levelled at his own winger help the cause much.

Of the two leading scorers in the division on show, Freedman looked higher class than Wilkinson: quick, combative and often a beat ahead of his slower-witted team-mates. But Wilkinson did score, a neat flick at the near post just before half-time which equalised the first of Cooper's two goals, a firm header from Wilson's cross.

Shortly after half-time, Cooper again found time in the six-yard area, this time to poke home Hodges's cross, and Barnet looked safe, until Phillips intervened. "They did everything I asked of them. It was just one individual mistake," Clemence said as he hurried off to find his opposite number, doubtless to talk about the time King's goal made Everton the pride of Merseyside. "It bounced off his shin, you know." Anything to take his mind off the present.

BARNET (4-4-2): G Phillips — D McDonald (sub: L Hodges, 45min), L Primus, M Newson, G Thomas — M Tomlinson (sub: T Gibson, 80), P Wilson, S Gale, K Watson — D Freedman, M Cooper.

MANSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): D Ward — A Goodwin, R Walker, L Howarth, I Baraclough — S Ireland (sub: S Hadley, 67), S Parkin, P Holland (sub: J Dolkin, 50), K Lampkin — S Wilkinson, I Onoura.

Referee: G Pooley.

Mann's gem ensures Diamonds sparkle

Rushden and Diamonds 1
Woking 0

BY WALTER GAMMIE

"THIS used to be a stand for 150 people," the club official said with a distracting wave of the hand towards the packed new construction that held part of the record 4,375 crowd at Nene Park on Saturday.

The marvel that is the home of Rushden and Diamonds, built over the past three seasons on the ground of Irthlingborough Diamonds after their amalgamation with Rushden Town, through the vision and munificence of Max Griggs, of Dr Martens, might easily have been the main attraction.

Yet the positive football played by Rushden and Woking at a stage of a competition when the prospect of playing at Wembley often produces matches of sterile insecurity, kept the eye fixed on the pitch throughout the FA Umbro Trophy semi-final first leg.

At the finish, Woking, the Trophy holders, looked pleased to have escaped with a 1-0 defeat, having been cruelly unsettled by the early loss of Kevan Brown, their captain and defensive linchpin, with a depressed fracture of his right cheekbone sustained in a challenge with Micky Nutell, the Rushden forward.

Rushden took swift advantage. Two Woking defenders were stranded on the ground when Mann drove a precise shot past Barry from the edge of the penalty area in the twentieth minute.

Five minutes later, Mann and Collins played in King but his shot came off Barry's right-hand post.

The storm over, Woking made chances of their own in the second half. Butterworth dived to head clear Hay's well struck shot with Davies beaten. Walker was twice found unmarked at the far post, being thwarted by swift work from Davies and then driving into the side netting.

Rushden drove relentlessly forward but, with King's shot kept out by a plunging one-handed save from Batty, Collins driving a clear opening wide and Tucker and Alexander producing saving tackles, they were denied, perhaps crucially, a further advantage.

RUSHDEN AND DIAMONDS (4-4-2): M Davies — T Rocking, A Peake, G Butterworth, D Johnson — L King, S Spencer, D Nutell, A Mann — G Collins, M Nutell.

WOKING (5-3-2): L Batty — J Crumpton, P Brown (sub: T Mountney, 16min), C Helder, M Turner, L Thomas (sub: K Rattray, 73) — S Wise, A Ellis, S Steele — C Walker, D Hay.

Referee: T Holbrook.

FA CUP

SEMI-FINALS

C PALACE (1) 2 MANCHESTER U (0) 2
Dowie 33, Armstrong 92 — Irwin 70, Pallister 96
38,256

(after extra time; 1-1 after 90 mins)

Crystal Palace: N Martyn, D Patterson, C Coleman (sub: D Gordon, 46min), E Young, R Shaw, D Pitcher, G Southgate, R Houghton, C Armstrong, I Dowie, J Salako
Booked: Young, Pitcher
Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, G Pallister, G Neville, P Ince, L Sharpe, R Keane, B McClair, D Beckham (sub: M Bett, 49), M Hughes, R Giggs
Booked: Pallister, Keane
Referee: D Elleray.
Replay: Wednesday 12 April, Villa Park, 7.45.

EVERTON (1) 4 TOTTENHAM (0) 1
Jackson 35, Stuart 55, Amokachi 62, 90 — Klinsmann 63 (pen)
38,228

Tottenham Hotspur: I Walker, D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, S Nethercott (sub: R Rosenthal, 64min), G Popescu, D Howells, D Anderton, N Barmby, E Sheringham, J Klinsmann.
Booked: Barmby.
Everton: N Southall, M Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, G Ablett, A Limpar, B Horne, J Parkinson, A Hinchcliffe, G Stuart, P Rideout (sub: D Amokachi, 71).
Booked: Hinchcliffe, Stuart.
Referee: R Hart

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

NEWCASTLE (2) 3 NORWICH (0) 0
Beardsley 8 (pen), 42, Kitson 74
35,518

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, M Hottiger, R Elliott, D Peacock, B Venison, R Fox, P Beresford, S Howey, R Lee, P Beardsley, P Kitson.
Booked: Venison, Peacock.
Norwich City: A Marshall, J Polston (sub: J Gordon, 63min), J Newsome, C Bradshaw, M Bowen, A Price, R Ulsthorne (sub: D Sutch, 6), D Earle, M Milligan, I Crook, A Ward.
Referee: M Reed.

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 WEST HAM UTD (0) 1
Collymore 78 — Dicks 67
28,361

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce, S Stone, D Phillips, L Bohinen (sub: J Lee, 72min), I Wilson (sub: B McGregor, 72), B Roy, S Collymore.
West Ham United: L Miklosko, K Brown, S Potts, M Rieper, J Dicks, M Hughes, M Allen, I Bishop, M Holmes (sub: A Whitbread, 88), J Boere, A Cottee.
Referee: G Pull.

QPR (1) 3 ARSENAL (0) 1
Impey 27, Gallen 59, Ready 82 — Adams 89
18,341

Queens Park Rangers: A Roberts, C Wilson, K Ready, A McDonald, R Brevett, T Sinclair, I Holloway, S Barker, A Impey, L Ferdinand, K Gallen (sub: G Penrice, 74min).
Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, M Winterburn, P Merson, S Schwarz, S Morrow (sub: D Hillier, 62), G Helder, I Wright, J Hartson (sub: C Kiwomya, 76).
Booked: Adams.
Referee: P Don.

SHEFFIELD WED (1) 1 LEICESTER CITY (0) 0
Waltingham 38
22,551

Sheffield Wednesday: C Woods, P Atherton, A Pearce, D Walker, I Nolan, C Waddle, J Sheridan, M Williams, K Ingesson (sub: A Sinton, 58min), G Whittingham, D West (sub: M Bright, 77)
Booked: Ingesson.
Leicester City: K Poole, J Willis, C Hill, B Carey (sub: J Lawrence, 64), S Grayson (sub: M Blake, 86), M Draper, G Parker, M Whitlow, D Lewis, M Robins, I Roberts
Booked: Grayson.
Referee: E Ashby.

Yesterday

LIVERPOOL (0) 0 LEEDS UNITED (1) 1
37,454 — Deane 25

Liverpool: D James, R Jones, P Babb, N Ruddock, J Scales, S McManaman, J Redknapp, J Barnes, M Walters (sub: M Kennedy, 72min), I Rush, N Fowler.
Booked: Jones.
Leeds United: J Lukic, G Kelly, C Palmer, D Wetherall, A Dorigo, R Wallace, G McAllister, G Speed, J Pemberton, B Deane, A Yeboah.
Booked: Deane.
Referee: K Burge.

TODAY

WIMBLEDON v CHELSEA

Vinny Jones returns to the Wimbledon side for the match with Chelsea at Selhurst Park tonight after recovering from ankle injury suffered during Wales' European Championship qualifying defeat in Bulgaria.

The return of Jones is welcome for Wimbledon as they are hampered by injuries to Earle (foot), Fitzgerald (knee) and McAllister (knee), all of whom are out until the end of the season.

Wimbledon are anxious to clinch a place in Europe through the Inter-Toto Cup and are chasing their fifth successive win. Chelsea, meanwhile, will be attempting to climb away from the relegation battle. After leaving Spain, where they were beaten 3-0 by Real Zaragoza in the European Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, with a clean bill of health, Glenn Hoddle, their manager, may play again after coming on as substitute.

Klinsmann: penalty for Tottenham

GOAL SCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	31	2	1	34
Fowler (Liverpool)	23	6	0	29
Klinsmann (Tottenham)	17	9	0	26
Le Tissier (Southampton)	15	9	0	24
Ward (Norwich) (17 for Crewe)	15	9	0	24
Wright (Arsenal)	12	3	8	23
Collymore (Nottm Forest)	19	3	0	22
Cole (Man Utd) (15 for Newcastle)	16	2	4	22
Sutton (Blackburn)	16	5	1	22

ONE statistic that was not going to be altered by yesterday's semi-final results was the 22nd consecutive appearance of a team from London, Manchester or Liverpool in the FA Cup final. In fact, in the past 20 years, there have been 19 appearances in the final by one or more of the teams contesting this season's semi-finals. There was no surprise either that Manchester United's match finished in a draw; it will be their tenth semi-final replay. The updated records for the four teams are: Everton — won 12, lost 11, drawn 6; Tottenham — W9, L5, D1; Manchester Utd — W12, L7, D10; Crystal Palace — W1, L1, D1.

Below is a statistical match-up between the key players on each team. Analysing and comparing both matches reveals the enigma of cup football, in that experience in the competition and hefty-price tags on players do not guarantee results — desire is the key.

KEY STATISTICS — EVERTON v TOTTENHAM

	1994-95 P	1994-95 Gl	Career P	Career Gl	Cost (£)
Southall (E)	5	-	86	-	150,000
Unsworth (E)	4	-	4	-	None
Stuart (E)	4	3	13	3	850,000
Rideout (E)	4	3	23	3	500,000
Amokachi (E)	1	2	1	2	3.0m
Walker (T)	6	-	6	-	None
Popescu (T)	3	-	3	-	29m
Klinsmann (T)	6	5	6	5	2.0m
Sheringham (T)	6	15	27	15	2.1m
Rosenthal (T)	3	4	11	4	250,000

KEY STATISTICS — MAN UTD v CRYSTAL PALACE

	1994-95 P	1994-95 Gl	Career P	Career Gl	Cost (£)
Schmeichel (M)	5	-	18	-	550,000
Irwin (M)	5	4	37	6	625,000
Pallister (M)	5	1	39	2	2.3m
Giggs (M)	5	1	17	4	None
Hughes (M)	4	2	44	13	1.5m
Martyn (C)	7	-	8	-	1.0m
Southgate (C)	7	-	8	-	None
Salako (C)	7	2	24	4	None
Dowie (C)	4	4	14	6	400,000
Armstrong (C)	5	5	8	5	1.0m

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

BOLTON WDRS (0) 1 WEST BROMWICH (0) 0
Thompson 85 — 16,207

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 TRANMERE RVRS (1) 1
6,723 — Aldridge 39 (pen)

DERBY COUNTY (0) 0 SUNDERLAND (1) 1
18,442 — Bell 42

GRIMSBY TOWN (0) 1 READING TOWN (0) 0
Livingstone 63 — 4,519

LUTON TOWN (1) 2 NOTTS COUNTY (0) 0
Telfer 3, Dixon 86 (pen) — 6,482

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 STOKE CITY (1) 1
Pearson 13, Moore 70 — Peschisolido 31
20,867

MILLWALL (2) 3 CHARLTON ATH (1) 1
McRobert 3, Thatcher 33, Dixon 49 — Balmer 7
6,508

PORT VALE (0) 0 WATFORD (0) 1
7,276 — Porter 88

PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 SHEFFLD UTD (0) 0
Creaney 60 — 8,216

SOUTHEND UTD (2) 3 BURNLEY (0) 1
Jones 5, Hails 6, Battersby 54 — Hogan 82
5,027

SWINDON TOWN (2) 3 OLDHAM ATH (1) 1
Viveash 24, Batschuweg 26, Taylor 58 — Holden 31
7,486

WOLVERHAMPTON (0) 0 BARNSLEY (0) 0
15,365

SECOND DIVISION

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 2 WYCOMBE WDRS (0) 0
Mean 28, 54 (pens) — 6,615

BRADFORD CITY (1) 1 STOCKPORT CO (0) 2
Youds 38 — Armstrong 69, Ward 87
3,927

BRIGHTON (0) 1 HULL CITY (0) 0
McDougald 67 — 6,036

CAMBRIDGE UTD (1) 2 PETERBOROUGH (0) 0
Joseph 17, Butler 62 — 5,928

CARDIFF CITY (1) 1 ROTHERHAM UTD (0) 1
Griffith 34 — Pearl 86
6,412

CHESTER CITY (0) 0 BRISTOL RVRS (0) 0
2,241

HUDDERSFIELD (1) 2 SWANSEA CITY (0) 0
Croshy 40, 82 — 10,105

LEYTON ORIENT (1) 1 CREWE ALEXANDRA (2) 4
Austin 25 — Whalley 8, Renshaw 44, Tierney 68, Lawrence 70
2,797

OXFORD UTD (1) 1 BRENTFORD (1) 1
Dyer 25 — Taylor 44
7,366

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (1) 1 SHREWSBURY T (0) 0
Patterson 25 — 5,089

WREXHAM (0) 1 YORK CITY (0) 1
Connolly 88 — Pavarini 71
2,508

THIRD DIVISION

BARNET (1) 2 MANSFIELD TOWN (1) 2
Cooper 14, 47 — Wilkinson 44, Phillips 73 (pen)
2,115

CARLISLE UTD (2) 2 GILLINGHAM (0) 0
Thorpe 14, Hayward 34 — 6,786

DONCASTER RVRS (0) 0 WALSALL (1) 2
2,358 — Wilson 6, 56

FULHAM (0) 1 HARTLEPOOL (0) 0
Blake 70 — 3,465

HEREFORD UTD (2) 3 COLCHESTER UTD (0) 0
White 4, 35, Smith 57 — 1,669

LINCOLN CITY (0) 0 CHESTERFIELD (1) 1
5,141 — Rajkumar 33

NORTHAMPTON T (1) 2 DARLINGTON (0) 1
Throckmorton 31, Grayson 59 — Power 54
4,495

ROCHDALE (1) 1 SCUNTHORPE (0) 2
Ryan 13 — Turnbull 59, Kiwomya 72
1,720

SCARBOROUGH (1) 1 PRESTON NE (1) 1
Charles 7 — Bryson 32
4,265

TORQUAY UTD (1) 2 BURY (1) 2
Curran 44, Nicholas 90 — Swail 19, 64
1,963

WIGAN ATH (2) 3 EXETER CITY (0) 1
Miller 28, Lyons 41, Rammer 72 — Cecere 59
1,417

SENDINGS OFF

First division: Wilson (Barnsley), 89.
Second division: Wanless (Oxford United), 83.
Third division: Harrison (Fulham), 30; Mauge (Bury), 79.

GOALSCORERS

First division: 25 Fjortoft (Middlesbrough, 25 for Swindon); 24 Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers) 22 Creaney (Portsmouth) 19 Kelly (Wolverhampton Wanderers) 18 Malkin (Tranmere Rovers), Whyte (Charlton Athletic). 17 Blake (Sheffield United); Foyle (Port Vale); McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers). 15 Hendrie (Middlesbrough); Nogan (Burnley, 12 for Brighton). 14 McCarthy (Oldham Athletic), Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers), Taylor (Luton Town, 13 for Bradford City). Scott (Stoke City, 12 for Swindon Town).

Second division: 38 Bennett (Wrexham) 26 Booth (Huddersfield Town) 25 Goater (Rotherham United) 24 Forster (Brentford): 23 Taylor (Brentford); Moody (Oxford United). 22 Jepson (Huddersfield Town); Stewart (Bristol Rovers) 21 Francis (Birmingham City, 13 for Stockport County) 20 Corazzin (Cambridge United); Miller (Bristol Rovers). 18 Charlery (Peterborough United), Claridge (Birmingham City); Butler (Cambridge United)

Third division: 26 Freedman (Barnet), 24 Lightbourne (Walsall) 23 Stant (Bury, 15 for Cardiff City) Wilkinson (Mansfield Town). 22 Reeves (Carlisle). 19 Wilson (Walsall) 17 White (Hereford United). 14 Carter (Bury), Hadley (Mansfield Town); Cecere (Exeter City), Pike (Gillingham), Whitehall (Rochdale) 13 Houchen (Hartlepool); Pugh (Bury), Cooper (Barnet)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

FALKIRK (0) 3 DUNDEE UTD (1) 1
Johnston 47, Kirk 79, McDonald 90 — Gemmo 32
6,894

MOTHERWELL (1) 1 PARTICK THISTLE (1) 2
Burns 27 — Cameron 12, Craig 49
9,631

RANGERS (2) 3 ABERDEEN (2) 2
Durrant 19, Murray 24, Hateley 52 — Dodds 32, Shearer 45
44,460

FIRST DIVISION

DUNDEE (1) 1 AYR (0) 1
Duffy 34 — Burns 59 (pen)
2,766

HAMILTON (0) 1 ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0
Duffield 60 — 866

RAITH (2) 2 ST MIRREN (1) 1
Cameron 35, 38 — Lately 24
1,008

STRANRAER (0) 0 DUNFERMLINE (1) 1
1,130 — Robertson 28

SECOND DIVISION

BERWICK (0) 0 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0
571

BRECHIN (0) 0 QUEEN OF SOUTH (1) 2
372 — Campbell 28, 85

CLYDE (1) 1 DUMBARTON (0) 0
McCluskey 43 — 1,250

G MORTON (1) 4 EAST FIFE (0) 1
Anderson 14, McCahill 58, Lilley 64, Laing 89 — Hamill 89
1,709

STIRLING (0) 2 MEADOWBANK (0) 1
Gibson 67, Walters 89 — Callaghan 82
378

THIRD DIVISION

ARBROATH (0) 0 ROSS COUNTY (0) 1
685 — Dall 62

CALEY THIS (0) 0 ALLOA (1) 1
912 — Wylie 6

COWDENBEATH (0) 2 ALBION (0) 0
Black 82, Yardley 85 — 194

FORFAR (1) 1 EAST STIRLING (0) 0
Bingham 36 — 621

SENDINGS OFF

First division: Britton (Dundee), 70; Duncan (Ayr), 44.
Second division: Rajamaki (Greenock Morton), 60.
Third division: Andrew (Caley Thistle), 45.

FA UMBRO TROPHY

KIDDERMINSTER (1) 2 HYDE (0) 0
Davies 7, Yates 65 — 3,059

RUSHDEN & D (1) 1 WOKING (0) 0
Mann 20 — 4,375

CONFERENCE

BATH CITY (0) 1 MERTHYR TYDFIL (0) 0
Mings 49 — 555

DAG & RED (0) 1 NORTHWICH VIC (1) 2
Shaw 60 — Vicary 14, Cooke 90
810

HALIFAX TOWN (1) 1 STALYBRIDGE (1) 1
Beddard 31 — Megson 32
802

RUNCORN (2) 3 ALTRINCHAM (0) 0
Connor 20, Dougherty 43, Finney 54 — 582

SOUTHPORT (0) 0 YEOVIL TOWN (0) 0
818

TELFORD UTD (1) 1 STEVENAGE BOR (2) 2
Holden 3 — Lynch 2, Beevor 26
757

WELLING UTD (0) 0 MACCLESFIELD (1) 1
802 — Power 4

	HOME P	W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Macclesfld	36	14	3	2	39	14	9	3	4	27	17	75
2 Gateshead	37	12	4	4	47	11	5	4	8	25	35	59
3 Kettering	37	11	5	3	35	19	5	5	8	25	28	58
4 Welling	33	8	6	2	26	20	6	4	5	25	25	58
5 Southport	36	10	4	4	40	19	7	3	8	17	27	58
6 Stevenage	36	9	3	6	36	24	6	3	7	22	19	57
7 Altrincham	34	9	1	8	32	26	6	4	4	37	24	56
8 Halifax	36	11	5	3	44	17	4	5	8	17	31	56
9 Northwich	36	7	7	5	37	37	6	5	6	28	26	51
10 Dagenham	36	6	5	7	25	22	8	4	6	31	30	51
11 Bromsgrove	37	8	7	7	37	30	5	4	10	21	31	50
12 Runcorn	37	11	5	2	37	23	3	3	13	18	43	50
13 Farnborough	36	8	5	5	21	22	6	3	9	16	30	50
14 Boston	37	7	6	5	29	26	4	6	9	19	29	45
15 Stalybridge	37	9	3	5	25	22	2	8	10	22	41	44
16 Hay & Mid	39	6	6	6	24	20	4	5	8	25	36	43
17 Yeovil	35	4	8	3	21	18	5	6	6	20	27	42
18 Telford	36	9	7	3	27	17	1	5	11	18	35	42
19 Welling	36	8	2	8	29	30	4	4	10	21	36	42
20 Merthyr	34	9	3	6	33	24	1	4	11	14	32	37
21 Yeovil	36	5	4	8	20	22	3	5	10	18	34	33
22 Saltash	36	3	4	9	24	39	3	6	11	22	44	28

Yeovil deducted 1 point

GOALSCORERS

Scottish Premier: 18 Coyne (Motherwell) 15 Hateley (Rangers) 13 Laudrup (Rangers); O'Neill (Hibernian), Robertson (Hearts). 12 Dodds (Aberdeen) 11 Jackson (Hibernian). Collins (Celtic). 10 Maskrey (Kilmarnock), 9 McDonald (Falkirk), Booth (Aberdeen); Millar (Hearts); Nixon (Dundee United), Shearer (Aberdeen)

First division: 22 O'Boyle (St Johnstone) 21 Petrie (Dunfermline) 20 Duffield (Hamilton) 19 Smith (Airdrie). 18 Britton (Dundee)

Second division: 16 Lilley (Greenock Morton). 15 Mooney (Dumbarton); Scott (East Fife), Hawke (Berwick); Watson (Stirling).

Third division: 26 Yardley (Cowdenbeath). 19 McGlashan (Montrose). 18 Bingham (Forfar); Kennedy (Montrose).

Burruchaga (right), the Independiente midfield player, challenges Herrera, of Velez Sarsfield, in the Recopa final in Tokyo yesterday. Independiente won the final, 1-0

NON-LEAGUE AND REGIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

Premier division: Accrington Stanley 2 Knowsley 2; Bishop Auckland 2 Chorley 2; Buxton 1 Barrow 0; Emley 3 Droylsden 1; Gainsborough 6 Colwyn Bay 1; Horwich 0 Matlock 3; Spennymoor 1 Boston 1; Winsford 0 Morecambe 2; Witton 1 Guiseley 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Marine	37	26	9	2	74	24	87
Morecambe	36	24	8	4	83	31	80
Guiseley	36	24	8	4	63	47	80
Boston Utd	37	18	10	9	71	35	64
Hyde	36	17	8	10	68	50	59
Spennymoor	36	17	8	11	58	47	59
Gainsborough	37	15	11	11	68	55	56
B Auckland	37	15	9	13	63	50	54
Buxton	36	16	6	14	53	53	54
Witton	36	13	13	12	49	50	52
Emley	37	13	12	12	57	58	51
Barrow	37	15	4	18	56	62	49
Colwyn Bay	36	14	6	16	66	72	48
Ac Stanley	36	10	13	15	45	71	43
Knowsley	37	10	12	15	55	68	42
Chorley	36	11	7	20	60	78	40
Matlock	34	12	3	19	45	54	39
Winsford	36	9	10	19	53	68	37
Frickley	35	8	10	17	47	63	34
Droylsden	37	9	7	21	50	68	34
Whitley Bay	36	7	8	23	43	85	29
Horwich	36	8	4	26	45	79	28

First division: Ashton 1 Grosna 3; Congleton 2 Blyth Spartans 3, Atherton LR 3 Farsley Celtic 1 Bamber Bridge 1 Eastwood Town 4, Fleetwood 1 Alfreton 2; Goole 1 Workington 3 Harrogate Town 1 Caernarfon 0; Mossley 0 Lancaster 3; Radcliffe 2 Netherfield 0; Warrington 2 Curzon Ashton 1, Worksop 2 Great Harwood 1

BEAZER HOMES

Premier division: Atherstone 4 Corby 0; Cheltenham 1 Worcester 1; Crawley 1 Cambridge City 0; Dorchester 4 Gravesend and Northfleet 5, Gresley 2 VS Rugby 2; Halesowen 0 Burton 1, Hednesford 2 Chelmsford 1, Leek 3 Gloucester 1, Stamford 4 Trowbridge 1; Sudbury 0 Solihull 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Hednesford	36	24	8	4	84	41	80
Cheltenham	34	22	8	4	75	29	74
Gloucester	37	22	6	9	72	39	72
Burton	35	16	13	5	47	34	61
Leek Town	34	17	8	9	62	47	59
Dorchester	34	16	9	9	68	48	57
Rushden & D	32	16	7	9	64	50	55
Gresley R	35	14	10	11	50	56	52
Cambridge C	34	15	6	13	49	45	51
Worcester	36	12	13	11	39	31	49
Halesowen	36	12	10	14	70	67	46
Gravesend & N	35	12	10	13	35	46	46
Solihull	37	9	14	14	35	55	41
Hastings	33	9	12	12	39	41	39
Atherstone	35	9	10	16	44	60	37
VS Rugby	36	8	13	15	39	55	37
Sudbury	34	10	7	17	42	67	37
Chelmsford	33	10	5	18	43	49	35
Crawley	34	9	8	17	47	65	35
Stamford	35	8	7	20	38	65	31
Trowbridge	35	5	12	18	29	58	27
Corby Town	34	4	10	20	32	86	21

Corby Town deducted 1 point

Midland division: Bedworth 2 RC Warwick 3, Buckingham Town 2 Barton 0, Evesham 0 Rothwell 4, Hinckley Town 2 Dudley Town 1, Ilkeston 1 Redditch 0; King's Lynn 8 Leicester 0; Moor Green 5 Forest Green 1; Newport AFC 4 Grantham 2, Stourbridge 2 Armitage 2; Sutton Coldfield Town 0 Bridgnorth 2, Tamworth 2 Nuneaton 1. Southern division: Ashford 1 Bury Town 4; Bashley 3 Clevedon 0; Braintree 0 Tonbridge AFC 0; Burnham 0 Baldock 1, Erith and Belvedere 1 Wealdstone 1; Fareham 2 Weymouth 1; Havant 3 Poole 0; Margate 1 Witney 1; Newport IOW 0 Salisbury 2; Weston-super-Mare 1 Waterlooville 1; Yate 1 Fisher 93 3.

DIADORA LEAGUE

Premier division: Bishop's Stortford 3 Carshalton 4, Chesham 2 Harrow 0; Dulwich 0 Hitchin 1; Grays 0 Molesey 0, Hendon 0 Kingstonian 0; Marlow 3 Aylesbury 2; Slough 3 Hayes 1; St Albans 1 Bromley 2; Sutton United 0 Enfield 2, Walton and Hersham 0 Wokingham 1, Yeading 1 Purfleet 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Enfield	34	21	8	5	60	38	71
Hayes	34	17	11	6	49	34	62
Slough	32	17	10	5	63	43	61
Bromley	35	16	9	11	60	56	57
Aylesbury	34	17	5	12	71	47	56
Molesey	34	16	7	11	65	44	55
St Albans	33	14	11	8	51	67	53
Carshalton	37	15	7	15	60	71	52
Harrow	35	15	5	15	55	55	50
Kingstonian	35	13	8	14	59	48	47
Hitchin	33	12	11	10	54	53	47
Dulwich	35	13	8	14	57	62	47
Walton & H	36	12	10	14	67	59	46
Grays	37	10	16	11	50	53	46
Purfleet	36	12	10	14	68	77	46
Yeading	35	10	14	11	50	52	44
B Stortford	35	10	10	15	49	70	40
Hendon	35	9	12	14	42	53	39
Sutton Utd	33	9	8	16	30	52	35
Chesham	34	9	8	17	51	69	35
Marlow	33	7	9	17	40	65	30
Wokingham	35	6	5	24	35	76	23

First division: Abingdon Town 2 Staines 3; Aylesbury Town 3 Ruislip Manor 2; Billericay 0 Uxbridge 0; Bognor Regis 1 Berkhamsted 1; Boreham Wood 1 Tooting and Mitcham 0; Chertsey 1 Worthing 3, Heybridge Swifts 0 Basingstoke 1; Leyton 2 Barking 0; Maidenhead 1 Newbury 1; Wembley 2 Dorking 0; Whyteleafe 3 Wivenhoe 2. Second division: Aveley 0 Bracknell 1, Barton 1 Croydon 2; Egham 0 Hampton 0; Hemel Hempstead 1 Chalfont St Peter 2; Hungerford 1 Witham 0; Leatherhead 1 Thame 4, Maldon Vale 4 Edgware 3; Metropolitan Police 1 Banstead 0; Oxford City 4 Windsor and Eton 1; Saffron Walden Town 2 Cheshunt 0; Ware 0 Tilbury 3. Third division: Bedford Town 2 Horsham 3, Camberley 3 Hornchurch 2; Collier Row 2 Feltham and Hounslow 0; Epsom and Ewell 1 East Thurrock 1; Harlow 1 Tring 2; Kingsbury 4 Harefield 1; Leighton 0 Clapton 1; Lewes 1 Flackwell Heath 0, Northwood 4 Hertford 2, Southall 2 Cove 0

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Aspmill 1 Bristol Rovers 1, West Ham 1 Bristol City 2.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 4 Skelmersdale 2; Bootle 0 Darwen 2; Burscough 3 Marine Road 1; Chadderton 1 Clitheroe 0; Kidsgrove 3 Bacup 1; Newcastle Town 0 Rossendale 1; Penrith 4 Salford 0. League challenge cup: Semi-finals, second leg: Nantwich 1 Prescot 0; Trafford 1 Tetley Walker 0

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 0 Sawbridgeworth Town 4; Burnham Ramblers 3 Concord 0, Eton Manor 0 Ford 3, Great Wakering 3 East Ham 0; Hullbridge Sports 0 Basildon 0; Maldon 1 Stansted 1; Romford 2 Brentwood 1.

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, second leg: Wimbledon 0 Manchester 3.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston FB 2 Bedlington 4, Durham 1 Prudhoe 1; Eppleton 1 Shildon 1, Hebburn 6 Chester-le-Street 3, Northallerton 0 West Auckland 1, Peterlee 0 Consett 4, RTM Newcastle 3 Guisborough 1; Seaham Red Star 1 Tow Law 2; Whitby 3 Murton 0.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon 3 Cranbourne 0, Banbury 3 Kintbury 0, Boscitto 2 Alexandrians 2; Brackley 0 Pegasus Juniors 3; Carterton 2 Shortwood 2, Cinderford 5 Fairford 0; Swindon Supermarine 0 North Leigh 1; Turley 1 Highworth 0

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe 2 Wellingborough 1, Desborough 2 Stotfold 2, Marfleet Blackstone 2 Kempston 2; Northampton Spencer 1 Boston 2; Spalding Utd 0 Eynesbury 0; Stamford 0 Holbeach 1; Wootton 0 Raunds 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple 0 Westbury 3; Calne 2 Bridport 1; Frome 2 Torrington 3; Liskeard 0 Elmore 3; Tiverton 5 Chippenham 1; Bristol Manor Farm 1 Liskeard 0; Crediton 2 Paulton 0; Westbury 1 Saltash 1.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell 4 Cheetown 0; Boldmere 5 Michaels 2 Oldbury 0; Bolehall Swifts 2 Stratford 0; Brierley Hill 1 Knypersley 0; Rocester 1 Hinckley Athletic 3; Sandwell 0 Shepshed D 7; Shifnal 3 Stapenhill 1; West Midlands Police 5 Renshaw 1; Willenhall 0 Pegaz 2.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris 0 Tiptree 2; Diss 4 Cornard 0; Hadleigh 2 Great Yarmouth 0; Halstead 1 Soham 0; Haverhill 0 Felixstowe 1; Histon 0 Wroxham 2; Lowestoft 2 Welwyn 0; Newmarket 4 Harwich and Parkeston 3; Stowmarket 1 March 2; Sudbury 0 Felsham 1, Woodbridge 8 Watton 3

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Larkhigh 3 Cowes Sports 1; Aerostructures 1 Fleet 3; Andover 3 Wimborne 0; BAT 2 Ryde Sports 1; Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0 Bournemouth 2; Christchurch 0 Gosport 4; Downton 3 Eastleigh 2; East Cowes 0 Hamble 1; Portsmouth RN 1 Totton 2; Swanage and Hamble 2 Petersfield 0; Thatcham 0 Brockenhurst 2.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside 3 Haringey Borough 0; Beaconsfield Sycob 0 Waltham Abbey 2; Cockfosters 0 Croydon Athletic 4, Corinthian-Casuals 0 Hanwell Town 1, St Margaretsbury 2 Walthamstow Pennant 1; Tower Hamlets 1 Brook House 3; Willesden 0 Hillingdon Borough 0

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta 0 Arlesey Town 1; Harpenden 3 Buckingham Athletic 2; Hatfield 1 Hoddesdon 2, Langford 0 Wingate and Finchley 4; Letchworth GC 0 Biggleswade 1, Royston 4 Dunstable United 1, Shillington 0 Potters Bar 0; Welwyn GC 1 Milton Keynes 4, O'Brien Butchers trophy: Tottenhoe 3 Toddington Rovers 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 1 Liversedge 0; Ashfield 1 Arnold 1; Brigg 1 Maltby MW 4; Denaby 0 Lincolns 5, Hucknall 0 Stocksbridge PS 1; North Ferriby 3 Thackley 1, Ossett Albion 2 Belper Town 1; Pickering 3 Ossett Town 1; Pontefract Collieries 0 Hallam 5, Sheffield 2 Glasshoughton Wel 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Tenniamians 1 Old Meadonians 1; Old Wilsonians 0 Old Ignatians 1; Olyn 8 Old Danes 0. Senior first: Latymer Res 3 Old Tenisonians Rec 1; Old Titians 2 Old Kingsburians 3; Old Salvatorians 3 Old Suttonians 1, Old Edmontonians 0 Sirens 3; Old Isleworthians 0 Old Wokingians 1. Senior second: Old Carmelians 3 Mill Hill City 3; Old Westminsters 1 Enfield 3; Old Meadonians Res 6 Old Ignatians Res 2; John Fisher 1 Old Minchonians 8. Senior third

Briton encouraged by unimpressive victory over Holmes

McCall whets Bruno's appetite

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

FRANK BRUNO is certain that he will at last lift the world heavyweight title this year. After seeing Oliver McCall's performance against Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace here on Saturday night, Bruno believes he will relieve McCall of the World Boxing Council title when they meet in London in July.

Holmes exposed McCall's limitations and made his victory over Lennox Lewis last September look like a one-punch fluke. Holmes, now 45, was outpointed only because he did not have the stamina to finish the job in the masterful way in which he had boxed the first six rounds.

Bruno, who was at ringside, said he was not impressed by the performances of McCall or Holmes, or those of Bruce Seldon and Tony Tucker, who were contesting the WBA championship. Seldon won after Tucker was prevented by the doctor from continuing after the seventh round because of an eye injury.

Bruno said: "I've got respect for Holmes, McCall, Seldon and Tucker, but to be quite honest I would have beaten them all tonight on that performance. McCall is one of the nicest guys in boxing, but I just can't wait. I know I can beat him because he sparred with me. I know him. I'm bigger than him, faster than him and I've got a better jab than him.

"I don't want to be flash, but I am the hardest puncher in the world today. If McCall wants a war he can have a war, if he wants to box he can do whatever he wants. He's strong and young, but I feel more confident than ever before the time is right."

Frank Warren, Bruno's promoter, was equally upbeat. "Frank would have walked away with it against any of those guys tonight," Warren said. "McCall did not fight like a champion. He just allowed Larry Holmes to dictate the fight."

Warren said it was just a matter of tying up a few loose ends, but he was 99 per cent sure that Bruno would challenge McCall around mid-July at a London football ground.

It would be Bruno's best chance of becoming a world champion. He is big enough to dominate McCall, but it would be foolish to take it for granted that McCall would box as badly as he did against Holmes. McCall was up against the most experienced heavyweight in the world, a once great champion perhaps second only to Muhammad Ali. It by no means follows that Bruno will also be able to expose McCall's limitations. Bruno is one-dimensional and predictable, while Holmes, despite being an old man, is a boxing genius.

McCall, who used to be Mike Tyson's sparring partner, was exposed as being little more than a gym hand who got lucky against Lewis. McCall won 115-114, 114-113, 115-112. I would have been happier with a draw, and would not have argued if Holmes had won by a round. But the great old man did not complain. He said he was retiring, for good this time. "It's no sense for me to go on," he said. "This is my last fight."

Many ringsiders found the bout untidy and repetitive as Holmes continually resorted to retreating to a corner and fighting against the ropes, stealing a foot or more space by leaning out of the ring, and tying up McCall. But it was really quite exciting and entertaining watching the master use every trick to block McCall's blows and counter with some classic punches to the body and head. Several times, McCall was so baffled that he would disengage and walk round the ring to regroup. But all the time he would find Holmes waiting in his corner, beckoning McCall to come to him.

Had he not begun to flag in the later rounds, Holmes could well have won. As it was, the judges disagreed in the scoring of two rounds, the second and the last, both of which I gave to Holmes.

In the first half, Holmes even outjabbed the younger man and landed some solid right hands after measuring McCall with the left, as Ali used to do. Holmes was always better in the middle of the ring because, technically, he was far superior, but his legs would not allow him to fight out in the open.

Up to the ninth round, I had Holmes ahead by two rounds, but then McCall caught him with a big right hand that broke his defences. Holmes walked back to his corner at the bell an old man.

After that, Holmes's work-rate fell off quickly, and too often he was leaning against the ropes and boxing with one hand. He reminded one of a man leaning against a wall watching the world go by. Indeed, that was how the world title went by.

McCall, left, who retained his title on points, is hurt by a solid right from Holmes in the tenth round

Restricted view spoils a grand sporting occasion

Mel Webb discards the television remote control and swells the Aintree masses

Do not mock that what follows is the story of a failure, because failure it was, albeit a noble one. It tells of the journey of an innocent abroad, and goes like this: I did a round trip of 500 miles on Saturday to see the Grand National, and finished up watching it on television.

It is amazing how cathartic a confession such as that is. Why, the shame of it is fading by the second. For this was one of the more difficult assignments of a long and more or less paid-up career as a member of the fourth estate. When given it, blenching with ill-disguised horror was in order, for at that moment less was known about horse racing than about kabaddi.

For those who doubt it, it can be revealed that kabaddi is a refined Indian version of playground tag. Before Saturday, the knowledge of steeplechasing extended no further than that it involved running and jumping contests between large, hooved quadrupeds carrying small, booted bipeds on their backs.

It was, therefore, with the tread of an explorer to a foreign land that the walls of Aintree were breached on this day of days in the mysterious world of National Hunt racing. It was a salutary experience, and one that left a scar on a sporting psyche that thought it had seen it all.

Now, a confession. Experiencing the atmosphere of Grand National day is something special, and one that can be recommended unreservedly. It will live for a good long while in the memory. But if you go to Aintree fired by the simple desire to see the big race, forget it. Unless you are lucky, you would, without question, be better off in the comfort of your sitting-room cracking open a nicely chilled half-bottle of Chablis (or cold and fizzy American beer, if that is your taste), and cheering from there.

So why go? Because it was there. And why the television? It is simple.

Received wisdom from knowledgeable friends was that the best vantage point was the County Stand. First, entry had to be gained to the County Lawn, they said, whence a transfer could be gained upwards to a seat with a view.

How they finished 27
TV action replay 24

There was an early disappointment when the payment of £29 allowed access not to a lawn but to a large and fairly undistinguished expanse of asphalt. The payment of a further £26 should have afforded a view from the County Stand roof. A bank note eagerly grasped in hand, it was a terrible disappointment to be confronted with "sold out" signs.

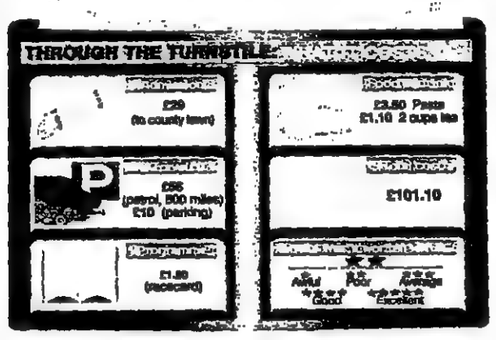
At that point, it would have been just as profitable to stage a tactical withdrawal to the nearest television screen. But wait, there was one, just across the track, a very large one. So it was a case of grabbing a place by the rails 90 minutes early and not budging, stoically and cold-heartedly ignoring plaintive appeals from the less vertically advantaged as race time drew near.

By this time, the pattern of the occasion had been set. Special though it is, Grand National day does not except it from the prescribed matrices of a grand British sporting occasion — extortionate parking fees and fast food.

Not wanting to lose the car in the midst of what seemed several million in the middle of the track, it was easy to be beguiled by the blandishments of a nearby tyre centre to park the car "where it will be easy to get away, mate" for a mere tenner. And while not necessarily decrying the undoubted virtues of the great British hamburger, it was a relief to be offered a bowl of pasta for a mere £3.50. The pasta was agreeable; the tea, which tasted of thinners, was not.

But back to the racing. A long and sometimes painful affection for Crystal Palace Football Club led to a £5 each-way bet on Crystal Spirit in the big race. From the limited view that two fleeting glimpses of the field afforded as it thundered past, right well it did, too, for three-quarters of the contest. Not a little unlike the football club in the FA Carling Premiership this season, in fact.

And, just like the football club's league form, it lacked punch and faded in the latter stages, and was fourteenth of the 15 runners that were left at the finish. It was the end of an imperfect day. The Grand National? Yes, please. Turn on the television somebody.



THE TIMES GOLF MASTERS CHALLENGE

Match the masters to win £25,000

Plus luxury US golf holidays and sets of Wilson clubs to be won

£25,000 LEADERBOARD

Six under par
P Mitz, Gosforth

Five under par
P Eccles, Belfast;
J Lee, Cleethorpes;
B Miller, Nottingham;
S J Wright, Glasgow;
S Ramsbottom, Oldham;

Four under par
T Robins, London;
D H Williams, Droitwich;
A Muir, Northwich;
R Hinsman, Witney;
J Lee, Cleethorpes;

Three under par
A Adamson, York; S Allen, Portsmouth; G Eyles, Camberley; R J Quiney, Wolverhampton; G Rowley, London; M Clatton, Bradford; J Lee, Cleethorpes; T S Jones, Leicester; J O'Neill, Harpenden; A J Pickard, Cambridge; M J Harrop, Chipping Norton; J Bailey, Epsom; A Sutcliffe, Southampton;

Two under par
R Land, London; K Wild, Newcastle Upon Tyne; A Tallentire, Wilmslow; E Simpkin, Lydney; S Lomas, Teddington; A Sutcliffe, Southampton; D Wood, Camberley

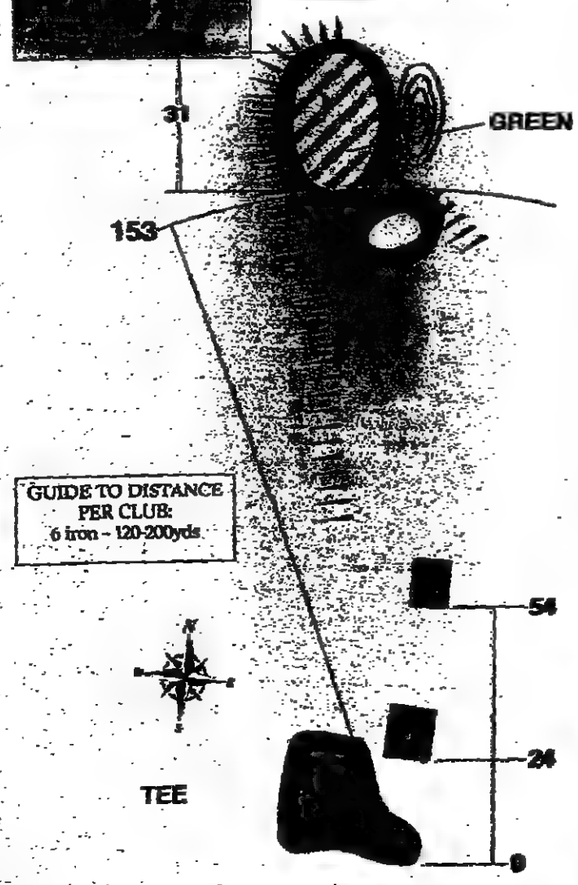
THIRD WEEK'S WINNERS

Greg Norman's actual yardage on the 14th hole at Hilton Head Island in the 1994 Heritage Classic was: No 7 iron 174yds, putter 7yds, putter 1yd.
Hale Irwin's actual yardage on the 13th hole at Hilton Head Island in the 1994 Heritage Classic was: three wood 233yds, No 8 iron 149yds, putter 1yd.
Last week's holiday to the Boulders Resort and Golf Club, Arizona was won by Russell Allen of Fareham Leatherhead. The Sunday Times prize of Wilson clubs was won by Gareth Toylet of South Glamorgan. The Times prize was won by Michael Robinson of London.

TODAY'S hole in our Golf Masters Challenge features the 4th at Turnberry, played by Fuzzy Zoeller in the 1994 Open. This is a 167yd par three and Zoeller completed it in three shots.

Taking a light north westerly wind into account, he teed off with a No 6 iron and reached the green, then used a putter for his second and third shots.

SKY SPORTS
Watch the PGA Seniors' Championship live on SKY SPORTS April 13-16



strokesaver
GOLF'S No1 DISTANCE GUIDE

Today we publish the eighth hole in the Golf Masters Challenge accompanied by details of how many shots a leading professional golfer, Fuzzy Zoeller, took to play the hole, the clubs he used and the prevailing weather conditions. The ninth hole appears in The Sunday Times next week.

To play today's hole study the Strokesaver map taking into account the yardage guides which give both distances from the tee and yardages to the green. They also show obstacles that might prevent the golfer from hitting the ball in a straight line, such as water and trees.

Using your skill and judgment estimate how far each shot travelled, in yards. Then pick up the 'phone, dial the appropriate Hotline, follow the instructions and key in your answers (you will need a touchtone telephone and calls will last for about four minutes; calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times).

Try to match the yardage of each shot taken by the featured golf professional and you could win any of three different prizes:

The £25,000 accumulator prize can only be won by readers who play all 18 holes during the nine weeks of The Times/The Sunday Times Golf Masters Challenge. If you have already played the first seven holes ring 0891 70 05 08 and quote your Pin number to play the eighth hole. This number automatically enters accumulator players for the daily prize and the second stage of the fourth weekly prize. A weekly leaderboard will chart the progress of the top 30 entrants.

The weekly prize. This is for all readers who play today's hole and the hole published in The Sunday Times yesterday. The person who has the best score over the two holes will win a luxury golf holiday worth up to £7,000. To play for the weekly and daily prizes ring 0891 66 55 08. Accumulator players do not need to call this number.

The daily prize. The reader with the lowest score on a single hole will win a full set of Wilson golf clubs including a golf bag and Ultra balls. To play for the daily prize, ring 0891 66 55 09.

The success of your play is calculated by a simple scoring system. You will be penalised one point for every yard your estimate varies from the exact yardage taken by the golfing professional for his shot. The total variance in points is then transferred into a golfing equivalent; 0-4 points = 2 under par, 5-8 points = 1 under par, 9-15 points = par, 16-19 points = 1 over par, 20-25 points = 2 over par, 26 points and over = three over par. This scoring mechanism is a final modification and is slightly more sensitive than the original published on March 19.

Golf Masters Challenge
CUMULATIVE HOTLINE:
0891 70 05 08
WEEKLY HOTLINE:
0891 66 55 08
DAILY HOTLINE:
0891 66 55 09

Entries must be made on the Golf Masters Challenge hotline logged by midnight on Wednesday April 12

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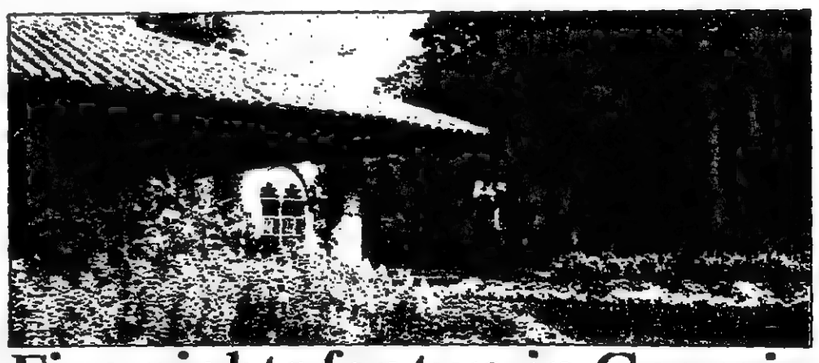


Five nights for two in Georgia

FOR readers who play today's hole and the hole published in The Sunday Times yesterday there is the chance of winning a holiday worth £7,000. This week's destination is The Cloister, Sea Island, an undiscovered, lush subtropical island in Georgia with 54 holes of challenging championship golf on the Retreat Plantation beside the Atlantic.

The company Great Golf Resorts of the World, which specialises in luxury golfing holiday resorts, has combined with American Airlines and Avis car rental to provide a dream holiday for two people as a weekly prize for the Golf Challenge.

Each weekly winner and a companion will fly business class with American Airlines. They will stay for five nights in luxury accommodation, with breakfast provided.

Winners will have three rounds of golf on a championship course.

American Airlines is the largest US transatlantic carrier, with non-stop flights from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham (from May 26) to eight American gateway cities, with connections to nearly 300 destinations in the US, the Caribbean, Latin America and Japan. American operates non stop daily flights to Miami and this summer will increase its service from Heathrow to New York/JFK, Chicago and Boston.

For further information on resorts featured, telephone American Airlines Holidays (ATOL 2706) on 01703 465885.

AmericanAirlines

Win a set of clubs at every hole

THE reader who gets the best score on each of the 18 holes in the Golf Masters Challenge will win a set of superb Wilson golf clubs worth £1,400 — including a golf bag and the latest technology Ultra 500 golf balls to get you rolling. The set is made up of Wilson Staff Midsize irons and Killer Whale Midsize woods. The irons are designed with perimeter weighting and a generous sweetspot to give maximum accuracy and forgiveness. The Killer Whale woods are reputed to be the longest-hitting clubs on the US PGA tour.

Wilson
The Right Equipment Makes The Difference

Bernhard Langer is the featured player in The Sunday Times golf March film on the 13th at Augusta in the 1993 Masters

Switch to summer confirmed after acceptance of radical proposals

Disbelief greets swift creation of Super League

By Christopher Irvine

FOR a sport driven by ancient and parochial rivalries, to see 100 years of tradition swept aside in 96 hours was more than some could bear yesterday in the dawn of a revolution that has showered rugby league's begging bowl with extraordinary riches.

In the centenary year of the split from rugby union, little of the present will be left to celebrate after the vote by the Rugby Football League (RFL) for a new start on Saturday. The small-town game is to be replaced by six hyper-clubs in a 14-team Anglo-French league. At a stroke, a game hidebound by the M62 corridor reaches out to the unlikely centres of Paris and Toulouse. It is a *fait accompli* that Keighley, for one, intend to contest.

There was bemusement and anger at the breathless speed of the changes, and at the disregard of supporters' views, at grounds yesterday, as well as wonder at the apparently limitless possibilities a move to a summer season and approximately £70 million over five years could offer. Fifteen clubs are to merge and up to six new stadiums will be built.

In Castleford, Featherstone and Wakefield, or Calder from next season — a merger comparable to lumping Chelsea, Millwall and Arsenal together — threats of boycotts and protests proliferated amid profound disbelief.

Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers feed off a rivalry suddenly ended by their unification as Humberside. The same applies to Warrington and Widnes (Cheshire), Oldham and Salford (Manchester), Sheffield and Doncaster (South Yorkshire), and the four Cumbrian clubs as a single county side. In enticing a new public, on the ground and globally on satellite television, there is also a mammoth task to convince the loyalists.

The 35 club chairmen unanimously sanctioned a transformed set-up from next March to ally the domestic season with the new Star League in Australia and New Zealand and end-of-season play-offs between the two leagues in September and October. "It was straightforward," one chairman said, "flourish or die." The changes are backed by The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*.

For a game that can make a choice between ham and cheese sandwiches difficult, it was a remarkable decision, and a ruthlessly calculated one. It was not simply that the game could not continue in its present state. Money, up to £1 million per Super League club per season, was on offer to a sport that has been proverty stricken for the majority of its 100 years.

Casualties are high, unacceptably so in the minds of many shareholders and members at clubs yet to have their say. Leaving out Keighley, on the verge of promotion, was a mistaken omission seemingly now destined for the courts. Keighley are one of the few enlightened clubs and rugby league needs all the progressives it can muster.

As with the FA Carling Premiership in Football, the monetary rewards make the Super League the only place to be, particularly as there will be no relegation or promotion from a 12-team first division for two years. One constant, the Challenge Cup, will remain, but after a truncated run-in season starting in August and ending next January, the Regal Trophy is destined for the scrapheap.

With Britain officially aligned with the rebels in Australia and New Zealand, the World Cup in England and Wales this autumn is at risk, unless the Australian Rugby League accepts defeat and throws in its lot with News Limited, the Australian arm of News Corp, which is backing the Star League.

The RFL was in no position to ignore the millions on offer when events began to unfold dramatically last Wednesday. As well as London and France, a new Cardiff-based team will be launched in the first division. Gateshead, Bristol and Birmingham are earmarked for future conquest.

"Some blood may yet be spilt," Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the RFL, said yesterday, "but this game was haemorrhaging alarmingly. We have an exhilarating opportunity to expand nationally and internationally. I was fed up with rugby league being treated quaintly, occasionally receiving the odd kind word."

CLUBS

SUPER LEAGUE

Wigan
St Helens
Leeds
Calder (amalgamation of Wakefield Trinity, Castleford and Featherstone Rovers)
London
Cumbria (amalgamation of Workington Town, Whitehaven, Barrow and Carlisle)
Cheshire (amalgamation of Warrington and Widnes)
Toulouse
Paris
Manchester (amalgamation of Salford and Oldham)
Halifax
Bradford Northern
South Yorkshire (amalgamation of Sheffield Eagles and Doncaster)
Humberside (amalgamation of Hull and Hull Kingston Rovers)

FIRST DIVISION: Cardiff, Batley, Bramley, Dewsbury, Highfield, Huddersfield, Hunslet, Keighley Cougars, Leigh, Rochdale, Ryedale-York, Swinton.

SUPER LEAGUE TIMETABLE

August 1995: Start of truncated league season. Super League clubs play one another once in a shadow competition, as will 12 teams in new first division.
October 1995: Centenary World Cup.
November 1995: Last Regal Trophy competition begins before its disappearance in 1996.
January 1996: Transitionary league season ends. Start of Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Final in April at Wembley.
March 1996: Start of Super League and new summer format. Matches to be played on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
September-October 1996: Super League top four to play Australasian Star League top four in Australia for World Club Championship.
November 1996: Possible international series, involving Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Lindsay looks ahead to a prosperous future for rugby league with the Super League

Keighley frustration clear

THERE were protests at the end of several Stones Bitter Championship matches yesterday about the overhaul of rugby league, among them a peaceful pitch invasion at Keighley that reflected the dismay at their non-inclusion in the Super League (Christopher Irvine writes).

The attendance of 4,221 at Cougar Park was higher than at most first division games, a well of support that the new structure might yet tap into, albeit as part of another of the club merger packages that have so infuriated supporters.

Twenty-two points by Martin Wood and three Neil Kenyon tries kept Keighley on course for a second division championship title that now has no reward at the end of it. Batley, winners by 33-10 at Hull Kingston Rovers, enforced their second place.

Mike O'Neill, the Keighley chairman, said: "If you want to be in the Super League, there is no choice other than to vote for it. Saying that, we are devastated because the Rugby League had put us on a pedestal to show other clubs how to transform themselves, and then totally ignored us."

By contrast, Castleford supporters protested about the club staying independent, rather than joining an alliance with Featherstone Rovers and Wakefield Trinity, after the side's 25-18 defeat of Doncaster, in which Tony Smith, touched down four times.

As at several grounds, there was a half-time announcement about the new initiative at Belle Vue which did little to appease some supporters, despite Wakefield's 29-16 defeat of Widnes, whose amalgamation with Warrington is also bound to cause much anguish. Nigel Wright, on loan from Wigan, claimed two tries and 21 points for Trinity.

After seven matches without a win, Salford provided a first triumph for Andy Gregory, the new player-manager at the Willows, with a 46-16 dismissal of Workington Town in which Sam Panapa scored a hat-trick of tries. Phil Ford went over for two and there were others for Jonathan Quigley and Scott Martin on his home debut. Halifax overcame Featherstone 34-8 and tries by Gary Lord, Paul Topping and Adrian Belle helped Oldham to a 17-12 win at Sheffield Eagles.

Continued rise of powerful force

Reading 16
Rotherham 21

By Barry Trowbridge

WITHOUT reaching the heights to which they habitually aspire, Rotherham comfortably took both points at a sunlit Holme Park on Saturday and with them secured a place in the third division of rugby union's Courage Clubs Championship next season.

In eight winters of league competition, Rotherham's successful search for mastery of their peers has already brought them four divisional titles in their rise from North East 1, and a fifth, their first in a truly national arena, must go their way, probably next weekend.

Not since 1990-91 have Rotherham lost more than one league match in a season, and this latest victory, scrappy though it was against the side lying second, was their 78th in 90 starts.

When, after 20 minutes, Paul Scott benefited from an indisciplined fly hack and was worked in for a try on the right, their points tally for the league season went beyond 500. Nationwide, that feat had been achieved only five times before the season began.

Perhaps it was the importance of the match that affected the standard of play. Perhaps it was because the season is nearing an end. Either way, the quality of play provided the respective coaches with plenty to mull over as they prepare for rugby at a higher level.

Phillips, punishing a lapse of concentration at a tapped penalty, and Hutson, who latched onto a free kick awarded for not putting the ball in straight at a five-metre scrum, gave Reading numerical hope in the second half, but Rotherham clearly had the ability to reply with interest. A second try by Scott, the best of the day, an assured dropped goal from Plant and some fierce tackling by their centres gave them ample room to breathe.

SCORERS: Reading: Tries: Phillips, Hutson. Penalty goals: Belshaw (2). Rotherham: Tries: Scott (2), Cornwallis. Plant (2). Penalty goals: Plant (2). Dropped goal: Plant.

READING: P Belshaw; M Richmond, J Dixon, L Fanning, N McCracken; D Hill, C Phillips; P Quintoja, B Parkin, I Tuimal, I McGrover, C Hutson, D Pratt, I Armstrong, S Loudwell.

ROTHERHAM: D Breakwell; P Scott, J Harper, T Turner, T Khor; K Plant, S Worrall; S Bunting, T Beyston, S Coy, A Challinor, J Dudley, B Richardson, C West, N Harris.

Referee: N Yates (Manchester).

Grayson's kicking provides victory

Northampton 15
Orrell 3

By Alison Kervin

THERE'S a sporting adage that advises team-builders to opt for a balance between youth and experience. Northampton have a reputation in rugby union for savouring youth but on Saturday, the scales swung the other way as they called up Gary Pearce, the 39-year-old former England prop, to help them to retain their place in the top flight of the Courage Clubs Championship.

The gamble paid off. Northampton won a frantic forward battle against a tough Orrell pack. Pearce was solid and reliable, Bayfield and Phillips were outstanding in the lineout and Hunter showed signs of returning to his old form with a brilliant counter-attack in the second half.

But the day belonged to the England A stand-off half, Grayson, who scored all Northampton's points in an impeccable kicking display. He scored four penalties and sealed the victory with a second-half dropped goal. Orrell battled hard, but only a dropped goal by Taberner put them on the scoresheet.

Northampton are a point adrift at the bottom of the table, but they face the unwelcome prospect of having their internationals available for only one more league game in April, because of the limit dictated by the England coach, Jack Rowell. Ian McGeechan said: "It's going to make it extremely difficult for us if we have to play without them."

Perhaps recalling the personable Pearce to the side will indicate a turn in the Saints' fortunes. He has kept his fitness by running out for Aylesbury Old Sociables, where they allegedly bring on 30 glasses of port at half-time.

Alas, there was no port to warm the bones at Franklins Gardens on Saturday, but there may well have been a small taste of champagne after the match, if only to celebrate the significance of not losing.

SCORERS: Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (4). Dropped goal: Grayson. Orrell: Dropped goal: Taberner.

NORTHAMPTON: I Hunter; N Beal, F Packman, M Allen, H Thomycroft; P Grayson, A Gallagher; N Walland, A Clarke, G Pearce, P Walton, J Phillips, M Bayfield, A Pountney, T Rodber. Beal replaced by D Elkington (44min).

ORRELL: S Taberner; A Healey, I Wynn, P Johnson, J Naylor; G Arscough, D Morris; P Winstanley, M Scott, J Cundick, J Huxley, C Cooper, C Brierley, P Manley, S Bibby.

Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan
Bridge Correspondent

The most usual occurrence of a suit preference signal (or *McKinney*) is when you are giving your partner a ruff and want to indicate which of the other suits he should return — you play a high card to indicate the higher ranking suit, and low for the lower ranking. Normally only two suits are involved, but occasionally there is scope for a three-suit signal.

Dealer South | North-South Game | Match pointed pairs

North: ♠97 ♥J94 ♦KQ943 ♣J104
West: ♠A2 ♥K5 ♦765 ♣A98765
East: ♠8543 ♥AQ1076 ♦J108 ♣2
South: ♠KQJ106 ♥[illegible] ♦A2 ♣KQ3

S	W	N	E
1♠	2♣	Pass	2♥
2♠	All Pass		

Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: the king of hearts

The defence take three rounds of hearts, and then East switches to the two of clubs. Declarer plays the king, and when East wins he is in the unusual position of being able to make a three-suit *McKinney*.

In this instance he returns the nine of clubs. East can work out that South has the king and queen of clubs, so he can see that the nine of clubs is West's highest. So after ruffing the club he returns a spade and gets another ruff. The interesting feature of the hand is that East puts his partner in in the trump suit to get a ruff — playing a red suit would have enabled the declarer to dispose of his third club before drawing trumps. What would West have done if he held Qx of spades (giving the declarer A K J 10)? Now when he returns a club he plays the seven, his middle club, requesting a return in the middle suit. After ruffing East returns a heart, promoting West's queen of spades.

Last week I omitted to say what you should bid on

♠KQJ97 ♥AQ654 ♦Q3 ♣10

over your partner's weak 1NT. Just bid Three Spades, and continue with Four Hearts over 3NT. DON'T use Stayman.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Karpov in form

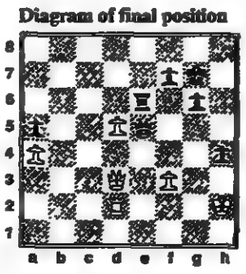
Anatoly Karpov, the FIDE champion is in top form in a curious tournament in Monaco which combines speed chess with blindfold games, in which neither player has sight of the board. After 18 of the 22 rounds Karpov dominates with 13.5 points, ahead of India's Viswanathan Anand on 11.5 with Vassily Ivanchuk (Ukraine) and Vladimir Kramnik (Russia) both on 10.5. Britain's sole representative, London Grandmaster John Nunn, is stuck in last place with 3.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Monaco, April 1995
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	0-0
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	b6
7	Bg5	Bb7
8	f3	d5
9	e3	Nbd7
10	cxd5	exd5
11	Bd3	Re8
12	Ne2	c5
13	0-0	Qe7
14	Ng3	Rac8
15	Bf5	cxd4
16	Qxd4	Rc4
17	Qd2	Nc5
18	Rad1	h6
19	Bxf6	Qxf6
20	Bb1	Ne6
21	Ba2	Rc5
22	Ne2	Ba6
23	Rfe1	Bxe2
24	Rxe2	Rd8
25	Qd3	g6
26	Red2	d4
27	Bxe6	Qxe6
28	exd4	Rcd5
29	Qe4	Qf6
30	Kf2	Kg7
31	Rd3	a5
32	a4	b5
33	b3	bxa4
34	bxa4	Qc6
35	Re3	Qd6
36	Rxe3	Qxh2
37	f4	Qh4+
38	Kg1	Qf6
39	Red3	h5
40	Qe3	h4
41	Qe4	R8d6
42	R1d2	Rf5
43	Rf3	Re6
44	Qd3	Rxd4
45	d5	Qa1+
46	Kf2	Rxf3
47	gxf3	Qa5+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Baker stumbles

Chris Baker, who has made the phenomenal score of 3/3 in the second St. Peters de Beauvoir international tournament in London, stumbled in round nine and lost to J. Rowson. Baker can now be caught by international master Neil McDonald who has 7/8 with one unfinished game.

Nordic Zonal

In the Nordic Zonal tournament in Reykjavik Danish Grandmaster Curt Hansen has secured himself a qualifying spot in the forthcoming Interzonal tournament, as has Grandmaster Margeir Petursson of Iceland who finished in second place. There has been a tie for third place necessitating a play-off for the final qualifying slot.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MACARONIC
a. Vain about dress
b. Made of pasta
c. Dog Latin verse

AUTOCHTHON
a. Original inhabitant
b. Suicide
c. Speaking the same dialect

HALITUS
a. A honey pastry
b. A winding river
c. Exhalation or breath

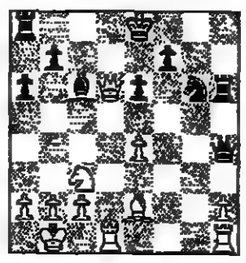
UNASINOUS
a. Permissive
b. Equally stupid
c. Egalitarian

Answers on page 41

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Brodski - Nevednichy, Bucharest 1995. Not all tactical continuations result in checkmate or the winning of pieces. Sometimes a neat tactic can be used to win just a pawn. This is one such case. White to play.



Solution, page 41

Pontypridd show prodigals the door

Bryan Stiles watches Mountain Ash brought down to size by 12 tries and a 76-3 scoreline

SOME of the relatives from Mountain Ash called in at Sardis Road on Saturday knowing they were in for a hot reception, but they got more than they bargained for. Pontypridd counted eight of their close-knit family who had left home and were appearing in Mountain Ash colours for this Swalec Cup quarter-final get-together and they welcomed them with open arms.

As in the best run families, a little friction occurred at times but this confrontation turned into a happy knees-up with Pontypridd running in 12 tries to put their returning prodigal sons firmly in their place.

It could hardly have been otherwise, with Pontypridd lording it near the top of the Heineken League first division and Mountain Ash struggling in the middle of the third division. Only seven miles of valley road separate the teams but the gulf in class was impossible to bridge.

The visitors never flagged, though, and were still chasing out eagerly to try to knock down Neil Jenkins's conversion kicks right to the final whistle. Their enthusiasm and the doggedness with which they pursued a lost cause was cheered by the crowd of 3,000, particularly on the rare occasions when they threatened the Pontypridd line.

They reserved a special cheer for one of their former brightest players, Jonathan Mason, who won a Wales cap in the 1980s. He collected Mountain Ash's only score — a well struck penalty midway through the first half. He realised it was unlikely that his team-mates would breach the Pontypridd fine and was determined that they should not leave empty handed.

Deciding who was going to receive the man-of-the-match award was easy. Paul John, at scrum half, was deluged with possession and ran the show like a ringmaster, laying on tries for others with a sharp service, then helping himself to the feast.

He raced through for four tries — three in a six-minute burst. His father, Dennis, is the Pontypridd head coach and is part of the Wales management team after the recent blood-letting. Son joins father in the provisional Wales contingent for the World Cup in South Africa.

Pontypridd go into the draw today for the semi-finals of the Swalec Cup with Cardiff, Llanelli and Swansea. Ieuan Evans inspired Llanelli to an 18-11 win over Bridgend on Saturday with one of his trademark tries. Newbridge made Swansea fight all the way for their 19-11 victory and Cardiff easily overcame the loss through injury of Derwyn Jones, the Wales lock, to trounce Aberavon 72-3.

SCORERS: Pontypridd: Tries: Paul John (4), Jones (2), G Lewis (2), Jenkins, Bezant, Lloyd, Phil John. Conversions: Jenkins (8). Mountain Ash: Penalty goal: Mason.

PONTYPRIDD: G Jones; D Manley, J Lewis, S Lewis, G Lewis; N Jenkins, Paul John; N Bezant, Phil John, A Metcalfe, M Lloyd, G Prosser, M Rowley, P Thomas, D McIntosh. Manley replaced by C Cornish (53min); McIntosh replaced by M Spiller (61).

MOUNTAIN ASH: J Mason; D Hughes, C Conway, M Cushion, P Thomas; M Bennett, M Rowe; N Eynon, E Lloyd, N James, N Williams, H Brown, D Dunnett, M Daniels, A Bressington. C Conway replaced by P Withers (51); N James replaced by G Lewis (62); Bressington replaced by M Butts (65).

Referee: D Davies (Llanbradach)

Winstanley and Preston fight again

By Peter Ball

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

"WELCOME to Victoria Park, Home of Burscough FC," reads the noticeboard on top of a whitewashed high wall down a little side street in a small central Lancashire town.

It is hardly Old Trafford, but for the students of Preston and Winstanley Colleges, Burscough, with its little stand, was the next best thing last Thursday evening. Around 500 spectators, mainly teenagers but with a smattering of league scouts, went through the one open turnstile to watch their teams contest the English Schools under-19 Snickers Trophy semi-final.

It could not have been closer, the Preston goalkeeper, Wesley Cole, ensuring a replay when he saved a penalty from Steve Molyneux, the Winstanley captain. It was a typical semi-final: tight, highly competitive and with little flowing football — but with one difference.

The supporters sounded like professionals as they went through their chants. "There's only one Tommy Taylor," Preston's supporters chanted in celebration of their own leading forward. "You're not Singing Any More," replied the troupe of girls supporting Winstanley, parroting the sounds of the terraces when their side gained the upper hand.

Although the boys taking part were old enough to be playing professionally, their discipline was impeccable, with no dissent and only one bad tackle. For once the Fifa fair-play logo on the Snickers banner meant something.

Snickers has supported the tournament for six years: it has been going for 26, and the list of winners tells the story of the changes in state education. When it started, it was dominated by grammar and technical high schools. In 1973 a comprehensive school, Fairham of Nottinghamshire, claimed it for the first time. Now it is dominated by sixth-form or tertiary colleges. The match on Thursday involved both.

Whoever goes through to the final will do so for the first time. Winstanley, the sixth-college, began life as Upholland Grammar School, a rugby school with Peter Williams and John Carleton, the England internationals, among its old boys.

Winstanley College has maintained the rugby tradition, although with the retirement of the old rugby teacher, they now play league, as befits a Wigan college, and reached the semi-final of the English Colleges Rugby League competition this year.

Football, in a town where all the junior schools play rugby league, has only just begun to make its mark, but the enthusiasm of Geoff Cathey, the head of PE, has paid off. This year his team has won the Greater Manchester County Cup. "Once they win something, it becomes self-perpetuating," Cathey said.

With more than half the side in the first-year sixth, they will be quite a force next season. On Thursday they held their own against an older, stronger side, and might even have won in the second half as the girls shrieked their support.

Preston, however, held on for the replay and ended their head of PE Geoff Snailham's hopes of an Easter holiday.

It was Preston's first appearance at this stage of the competition, although they qualified as Lancashire Cup winners. They are still on course for five trophies this season, with a semi-final against another Preston college, Grunshaw, due to be played this week in the British Colleges Competition.

The college has a good sporting record. The women's hockey team has been the national champion for four of the past six years. Six of the football squad are in the Lancashire representative side and Taylor is in the British colleges team.

THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 10 1995

Lead changes hands after Butland helps to inspire seven-try spree

Adebayo, the powerful Bath centre who scored two tries, leads another forward surge against West Hartlepool at the Recreation Ground. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Bath settle back into winning routine

David Hands sees champions resume normal service with 53-17 victory over West Hartlepool

THE heady whiff of confidence permeated every corner of the Recreation Ground on Saturday. A business report might indicate that the company had emerged from a slightly sticky patch in March with vigour renewed and optimism for a future that stems from seeing Bath once more in their accustomed place — heading the Courage Clubs Championship, albeit only on points difference, and contesting the cup final.

Indeed, rugby union as a business could take the first few days of April as its metaphor: over the weekend, Bath launched their next playing generation into a league match that produced their biggest win of the season, and their own players' company, the unromantically named Bath Players' Initiative (BPI). Tonight, their representatives will sit down with Leicester to discuss the way forward for the European competition of which the clubs are the driving force, and next Saturday they will dispute, with Leicester, the league match that will surely decide the title.

"We are the team in form — top of the league, in the cup final, playing the best rugby we have all season," John Hall, the captain and one of the two directors of the BPI, said. "We are on top of the world. There will need to be a bit of restructuring next season but there's nothing wrong at Bath, as one or two people have tried to make out."

Though they are at the other end of the first division, West Hartlepool think along the same lines. Defeat pushed them firmly into the relegation bracket, along with Northampton and Harlequins, but they know that every season they can remain in the top flight will earn their players the extra experience that brings the like of Bath and Leicester through mid-season crises, winners by a handful of points rather than losers.

Their long-term ambition is to make the same professional appointments that are now becoming commonplace in the national leagues, to cope with the playing side of the game and matches which, like that against Leicester last month, bring 5,000 people to Brierton Lane. That number may be only half of what Leicester themselves expect at home matches, but for West it is a rip-roaring attendance which they would love to welcome on a regular basis.

They can only look at Bath's resources with envy. Shorn of seven first-team players, the champions concluded the match as a contest before the interval by running up 25 points without reply and exposing West Hartlepool's soft defensive centre. In doing so, they provided Richard Butland with the stage to suggest that, if it is stand-off halves that England seek, here is one with a pedigree at least equivalent to those of the hopefuls at Northampton and Harlequins.

Butland, 22, was born in Cape Town and arrived at the Recreation Ground via New Jersey, Wellington College and, ironically, Harlequins. A student at Bath University, he has that comfortable relationship with the ball that all good stand-offs possess. It was not his accumulation of 18 points that impressed, but his mature play which, Hall said, showed a dimension beyond what even his colleagues expected.

"He had his best game of the season," Hall said. "It gives us plenty of options for next week, against Leicester." In fact, Mike Catt will probably play at No 10, but since he has already expressed the desire to play full back next season, Butland will clearly get the opportunity to develop his game still further.

He would have done so on Saturday but for the intrusive whistle of Ashley Rowden, who refused to let the game run. Bath were caned for penalties at a ratio of three to one, on a day when Robinson was at his most authoritative as a ball-carrier and distributor. He may not have scored himself, but the open-side flanker was at his creative best. Allied to de Glanville and the spritely Lumsden, Bath offered an attacking force that ripped West wide open.

They preyed on ball kicked untidily away by West Hartlepool, who were without the injured Stabler and Whitaker at stand-off, and the young full back, Stimpson, who might have succeeded with the four penalties which Oliphant narrowly missed. When they did start scoring tries after the interval, Bath were capable every time of trumping them with even better efforts.

That Cook, at scrum half, played well was ironic, given that West have been encouraged to play Derrick Patterson to assist the Scotland selectors. The second berth at scrum half in Scotland's World Cup squad has been left open as a lure to Andy Nicol, now desperately trying to recover fitness at Bath. So while all Scotland's other squad members have been told not to play, the likes of Patterson and Nicol need every game. Patterson has been either capped or a replacement in all Scotland's games, only to find that he may still be overlooked for a player who has played no serious rugby this season. No wonder he is confused and his club disgusted.

SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Lumsden (2), Adebayo (2), Adams, de Glanville, Ubogu. Conversions: Butland (6). Penalty goals: Butland (2). West Hartlepool: Tries: Cook, Ewene, Brown. Conversion: Oliphant.

BATH: A Lumsden, A Swift, P de Glanville, A Adebayo, J Sleighholme; R Butland, I Sanders; Y Yates, G Adams, V Ubogu, E Pearce, M Haag, N Redman, A Robinson, J Hall.

WEST HARTLEPOOL: K Oliphant; O Evans, A Ewene, P Hodder, S Jones; A Parker, S Cook; P Lancaster, T Herbert, P Beal, P Evans, J Dixon, K Westgarth, A Brown, T Jaques. Westgarth temporarily replaced by J Whitaker (34-37min).

Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)

Place in top eight will satisfy Italy

By Paolo Catella

Two world champions came together on Treviso's ground recently: Michael Lynagh's host team had overwhelmed Wayne Shelford's Roma, so the New Zealander was not happy, but he and Lynagh were in agreement on one thing — that Italy would cut a good figure in the World Cup.

"There's good potential here," Shelford said. "The quarter-finals are not out of range for Italy, and they will be competitive." To ensure that they are, the national club championship will finish early, when Milan and Treviso contest the final next weekend. Thereafter, the road to South Africa will take a turn towards France, where the national squad will make a preliminary tour.

Giancarlo Dondi, the team manager, has arranged three matches between April 22 and May 1, in Montpellier, Narbonne and Perpignan, which precede the meeting with Ireland in Treviso on May 6. The Italians will then play two matches against Select XVs before departing for South Africa. By that time, the management will also know whether Massimo Giovanelli, the former captain, will be available to play in the World Cup.

Giovanelli, 27, has spent the last year recovering from a car accident that threatened his career. The blind-side flanker is optimistic, but needs another operation on his left leg before a decision is made. However, Carlo Checchinato, the Rovigo No 8, and Nicola Aldrovandi, the Bologna utility back, are fit.

Georges Coste, the most successful coach in Italian rugby, expresses satisfaction and concern at what has been achieved so far. "We did a good job in Australia [last summer] and performed well enough in the European play-offs for the World Cup, against Romania and Wales," Coste said. "On both occasions many top players were missing with injuries, but the team spirit was excellent and the game standards satisfactory. The problems came afterwards."

Coste was referring to the defeats against France A (14-9 in Dijon) and Scotland A (18-16 in Perth), both of whom had been beaten in Italy a year earlier. "The problem is that we lapse into the well-known Italian nebula," Coste said. "We lost two matches in the same way, lacking determination and aggression. The club championship seems to impose a kind of mental reservation on the players. They need to stay together for more than a couple of days to find again their total commitment and fighting spirit.

"The match with Ireland must show we are progressing the right way. Western Samoa will be our first, and therefore most crucial, World Cup match. We have to arrive there with everything working at 120 per cent."

The Italian players believe they will be evenly matched against Western Samoa and Argentina. "England apart, it's a balanced pool," Diego Dominguez, the stand-off half, said. "With Coste we have improved our discipline and sense of playing. We are confident."

Massimo Cuttitta, who has replaced Giovanelli as captain in eight matches, believes Italy can "speak the same language as the best international teams", but the proviso over England is important after the débâcle at Twickenham in the 1991 World Cup, when the Italians were swept away in a deluge of penalties.

"England is a point of reference in world rugby, with its traditional power-play and a very interesting new ambition to keep the ball alive," Coste said. "They could be world champions. We go to the World Cup to evaluate our growth against this yardstick.

"In this World Cup we must try to be among the top eight, and in 1999 we must try to challenge with the very best. England will be the high-level opposition that we need."

☐ *Paolo Catella is the rugby correspondent of* Il Mattino di Padova.

Leicester's form causing concern

Leicester 22
Harlequins 8

By Peter Bills

THE Courage Clubs Championship first division title will fall into Bath's lap next Saturday unless Leicester salvage some semblance of their true form before the champions visit Welford Road for the decisive match of the league season.

"Leicester made more mistakes in this game than in any other match I have ever seen them play," was the comment of the Harlequins' director of rugby, Dick Best.

His opposite number, Tony Russ, swallowed hard and then agreed. "It was a very disappointing performance. We are not playing with the fluency we are looking for, particularly in midfield. Our ball retention was poor, and that factor, plus our need for directness in midfield, will need to show mega improvement by Saturday."

Preparations for both sides will be disrupted by an England squad session on Tuesday and Russ certainly did not play the diplomatic card on that subject. "The England thing has ruined the whole season," he said: "Our preparation for the Pilkington Cup semi-final was spoilt and now the same will happen before the match which may decide the league title. I feel very badly about it. I blame a lack of practice for the poor way in which we are playing. We just haven't had the players there and that's been the case since Christmas.

"Frankly, we haven't played really well the whole season, except in spasmodic periods. We have not put together a totally compelling game for the full 80 minutes."

Leicester started this match as first division leaders on points difference, but they offered not a trace of the authority one would expect from potential champions. They failed to assert themselves sufficiently up front, despite Harlequins handing them so much lineout possession from Mitchell's woeful throwing in.

The consequent lack of possession condemned Harlequins to a scrappy, spoiling game. Although they never looked like winning, they managed to drag Leicester closer to their level.

Dean Richards will be fit to resume on Saturday, his first game since the Calcutta Cup match, and John Wells should have recovered from a knee injury. But Leicester's inability to penetrate consistently and decisively against an enthusiastic defence was disturbing. Even when they did, errors proliferated. Only Liley's goalkicking looked convincing.

Tony Underwood's try, which came from a gliding run down the touchline that reduced four defenders to statues, was the lone moment of class. It settled the fate of increasingly desperate opponents who will face the remainder of the season with as much trepidation as Leicester await the encounter with Bath.

SCORERS: Leicester: Try: T Underwood. Conversion: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley (4). Dropped goal: Harris. Harlequins: Try: Wright. Penalty goal: Challinor.

LEICESTER: J Liley; S Hackney, D Edwards, S Potter, T Underwood; J Harris, J Hamilton; D Jelley, R Cockerill, D Garforth, J Wells, P Grant, M Poole, N Back, C Tarbuck. Wells replaced by M Grant, 76min.

HARLEQUINS: C Wright; C Henderson, P Mensah, R Osman, D O'Leary; P Challinor, R Kitchin; S Brown, S Mitchell, A Mullins, M Watson, A Snow, M Russell, R Jenkins, C Sheasby.

Referee: J Pearson (RFU).

Wasps maintain expansionist policy

Sale 12
Wasps 17

By Christopher Irvine

IN THE sunlit Utopian uplands of rugby union's running game, the entertainers are duly entertained. The theory that Wasps are further down the evolutionary road than the club that shares their vision was also proved.

Whereas Sale are somewhat one-dimensional, their impetus generated principally by Paul Turner, Wasps' creativity can originate from anywhere, and did at Heywood Road on Saturday. A point of attack as likely to be Damian Hopley, carving through the centre, as White and Dallaglio, flankers who jab holes out wide like a pair of knitting needles, is fulfilment of a total rugby concept that has breathed life this season into the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship.

Pragmatists in overcoming Bath and Leicester in successive weeks, Wasps were back to being paragons of expansionist virtue. Five changes failed to disturb their balance. Even in a fledgling half-back combination of Braithwaite and the exciting Gomarsall, the England A scrum half, this philosophy appeared ingrained. For only the second league match this season, Sale were try-less. The smothering black wall they came up against was only partly the problem. Had control and better support been allied to the spirit they maintained to the end, their attacks might have been better rewarded than by the four penalty goals Liley managed.

What Wasps possessed, crucially, was too much class in the back row. They also benefited from Popplewell's ability to breach the gain-line seemingly at will and Hadley's thunderous driving in the loose. It was 25 minutes before Sale won a lineout.

The London side can both delight and infuriate with tap penalties when three points are begging, but it wins more friends than enemies. However, in a game never off a short fuse, Ryan, the Wasps captain, for the second game running, and Diamond, of Sale, received yellow cards.

All three tries came down Sale's vulnerable left side. Phil Hopley was on the end of two and Gomarsall the other in scores illustrating the quick hands and quick thinking that have become Wasps' hallmarks of excellence.

SCORERS: Sale: Penalty goals: Liley (4). Wasps: Tries: P Hopley (2), Gomarsall. Conversion: Ufton.

SALE: R Liley; J Mallinder, J Baxendell, G Stocks, C Yates, P Turner, C Savenmuto; P Smith, S Diamond, A Smith, D Erskine, J Fowler, D Baldwin, N Ashurst, C Vyvyan.

WASPS: S Pilgrim; P Hopley, D Hopley, G Childs, S Roiser, C Braithwaite, A Gomarsal, N Popplewell, P Delaney, J Probyn, L Dallaglio, M Greenwood, N Hadley, M White, D Ryan. Roiser replaced by J Ufton (12min).

Referee: E Morrison (Bristol)

Full rugby results and Courage league tables ..... Page 34

Jones aims to regain fitness for World Cup

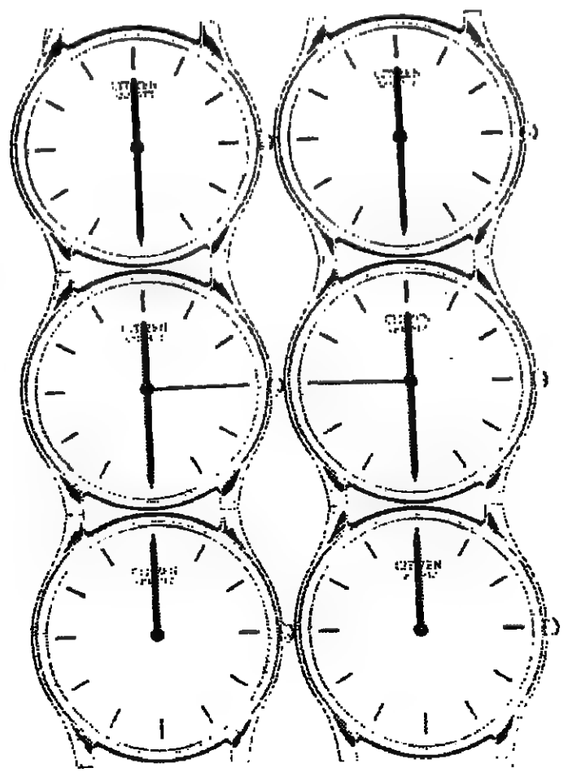
DERWYN Jones, the Wales lock who damaged ankle ligaments and had to be carried from Cardiff Arms Park on a stretcher on Saturday, is hoping he will recover in time for the World Cup, which starts next month (Bryan Stiles writes).

Alex Evans, the new Wales coach, said: "We go to South Africa in six weeks and it is touch and go whether he will be with us." The 6ft 10in policeman was taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary after his team's 72-3 rout of Aberavon in the quarter-finals of the Swalec Cup.

Jones, whose ankle will be in plaster for ten days, said: "Naturally I'm disappointed but it could have been worse. What I've got to hope is that when the plaster comes off I'll be able to play again pretty quickly, and maybe even be available for the Cup final on May 6 if Cardiff win their semi-final." He will have a scan tomorrow.

South Africa make six changes from the side that beat Wales last November for their only international before the World Cup. They include the uncapped Transvaal hooker, Chris Rossouw, against Western Samoa in Johannesburg next Thursday, after the retirement of Uli Schmidt and injury to James Dalton. The captain, Pienaar, confirmed his fitness on Saturday.

SOUTH AFRICA: G Johnson (Transvaal), J Small (Natal), J Mulder (Transvaal), B Venter (Orange Free State), C Williams (Western Province); H le Roux (Transvaal), J van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal), J du Randt (Orange Free State), C Rossouw (Transvaal), S Swart (Transvaal), F Pienaar (Transvaal, captain), J Wiese (Transvaal), M Andrews (Natal), R Kruger (Northern Transvaal), R Strauss (Transvaal).



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RUGBY WORLD CUP OFFICIAL TIMER

CITIZEN

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE: Amsterdam 17 Barcelona 13; Frankfurt 45 London 22. Scottish Claymores 17 Rhein 19

ATHLETICS

ATHENS: Marathon World Cup: Men: 1, D Wakihuri (Ken) 2hr 12min 1sec; 2, T Sunada (Japan) 2.13.16, 3, D Milesi (It) 2 14.09, 4, J Torres (Sp) 2:14 48; 5, M Taye (Eth) 2:14:53. Women: 1, A Catuna (Rom) 2:31.10; 2, L Simon (Rom) 2:31 46, 3, C Pomacu (Rom) 2:32:09, 4, O Ferrara (It) 2:32:56, 5, M L Munoz (Sp) 2:34:35

ROAD RELAYS: Sutton Coldfield: Midland 12-stage (48 miles). 1, Coventry Godiva 3hr 44min 57sec; 2, Tipton Harriers 3:45.33, 3, Birchfield Harriers 4 46.45. Wigan: North 12-stage (54 miles): 1, Salford 4:06:52. 2, Morpeth 4:08.51, 3, Leeds City 4.12.48

ROAD RUNNING: Cardiff: Civil Service championship: 10km. 1, S Knight (DTI) 30.48. Teams: 1, Min of Del 30; 2, Dep of Social Security 42, 3. Inland Rev 85.

BADMINTON

BEIJING: Asian championships: Finals. Men: P Sung-Woo (Kor) bt S Jun (China) 15-8 15-8 Women: Singles: Y Zhaoying (China) bt Y Yan (China) 11-2 11-0.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 103 Miami 93, Philadelphia 109 Orlando 99, Seattle 125 Dallas 98, New York 113 Detroit 96, San Antonio 112 Golden State 99, LA Clippers 112 Sacramento 105

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-off quarter-final, first leg: Birmingham 85 (Lloyd 26, Dorsey 20, Simms 12, Samuels 12) Sheffield 81 (Huggins 21, Cauthorn 19, Gayle 14), Worthing 89 (Irish 22, Nelson 18, Hamed 17) Thames Valley 79 (Bucknall 25, Austin 14, Scantlebury 12)

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: National indoor championships: Singles: Semi-finals: I Bond (Exona) bt G Harlow (C of Ely) 21-7; I Wones (N Walsham) bt M Biggs (Swindon W) 21-16 Final: Bond bt Wones 21-20

SOUTHAMPTON: Atherley Trophy: Final: Surrey 116 Norfolk 111.

CAMBERLEY: National father and son competition: Final: M and R Newman (Whiteknights) bt N Haines (West Berks) and J Haines (East Dorset) 28-10.

BOXING

LAS VEGAS. World Boxing Council heavyweight championship: Oliver McCall (US, holder) bt Larry Holmes (US) pts WBC super-lightweight championship: Julio Cesar Chavez (holder, Mex) bt Giovanni Parisi (It) pts. WBC super-welterweight championship: Luis Santana (holder, Dominican Rep) bt Terry Norris (US) disq 3rd. International Boxing Federation welterweight championship: Felix Trinidad (P Rico) bt Roger Turner (US) rsc 2nd. World Boxing Association heavyweight championship: Bruce Seldon (US) bt Tony Tucker (US) rsc 7th.

CRICKET

Asia Cup

Bangladesh v Pakistan

SHARJAH (One-day match, Bangladesh won toss): Pakistan beat Bangladesh by six wickets

BANGLADESH

Athar Ali Khan c Moin b Wasim	2
Javid Omar b Nazir	9
Habibul Bashar b Wasim	0
Aminul Islam c and b Arshad Khan	42
Minhazul Abedin c Moin b Nazir	0
*Akram Khan run out	44
Naimur Rahman run out	3
†Khalid Masud not out	27
Enamul Haq run out	7
Saiful Islam not out	3
Extras (lb 1, w 9, nb 4)	14
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	151

Hasibul Hossain did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-16, 3-19, 4-19, 5-91, 6-97 7-119, 8-133

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 10-0-25-2; Aqib Javed 10-0-29-0, Zahir Iqbal 5-1-8-0; Aamer Nazir 7-0-23-2; Arshad Khan 10-0-29-1; Aamir Sohail 8-1-36-0.

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail c Naimur b Saiful	30
Saeed Anwar c Masud b Hasan	18
Ghulam Ali c and b Naimur	38
Inzamam-ul-Haq not out	29
Asif Mujtaba b Athar Ali	0
Wasim Akram not out	30
Extras (lb 1, w 6)	7
Total (4 wkts, 29.4 overs)	152

*†Moin Khan, Aqib Javed, Zahir Iqbal, Aamir Nazir and Arshad Khan did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-35, 2-68, 3-106, 4-107

BOWLING. Saiful 7-0-33-1, Hasan 8-0-43-1; Enamul 4-0-20-0, Naimur 6 4-0-29-1, Athar Ali 2-0-10-1; Abedin 2-0-16-1

Sri Lanka v India

SHARJAH (One-day match, Sri Lanka won toss): India beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets

SRI LANKA

A P Gurusinha c Mongia b Srinath	15
S T Jayasuriya b Kumble	31
R S Mahanama c Azharuddin b Prasad	11
P A de Silva c Tendulkar b Prasad	21
*A Ranatunga lbw b Srinath	5
H P Tillekeratne run out	46
†R Kaluwitharana c Jadeja b Prasad	1
H D B K Dharmasena run out	30
C J Vaas not out	10
C P Ramanayake b Prabhakar	0
J C Gamage not out	1
Extras (lb 12, w 12, nb 5)	29
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	202

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-25, 2-60, 3-70, 4-76, 5-105, 6-113, 7-184, 8-196, 9-199

BOWLING. Prabhakar 10-1-51-1; Srinath 10-1-35-2, Prasad 10-0-37-3; Kumble 10-0-37-1, Kapoor 10-0-30-0.

INDIA

M Prabhakar c Tillekeratne b Jayasuriya	60
S R Tendulkar not out	112
N S Sidhu c and b Jayasuriya	3
J Srinath not out	14
Extras (lb 3, w 13, nb 1)	17
Total (2 wkts, 39.1 overs)	206

*M Azharuddin, A Jadeja, S V Manjrekar, †N R Mongia, A Kumble, V Prasad and A Kapoor did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-161, 2-167

BOWLING: Vaas 9-0-67-0; Gamage 3-0-23-0, Ramanayake 4 1-0-38-0, Dharmasena 5-0-16-0; Jayasuriya 10-0-42-2; de Silva 2-0-17-0.

Umpires: N Plews (England) and C Mackely (South Africa)

CYCLING

ROUBAIX: Paris-Roubaix World Cup race (259km). 1, F Ballerini (It, Mapei) 6hr 27min 8sec; 2, A Tchmil (Russ, Lotto) 1min 58sec behind, 3, J Museeuw (Bel, Mapei)

ROAD RACES: Archer Grand Prix (Beaconsfield, 106 miles): 1, C Newton (North Wirral Velo), 3hr 58min. 2, G Holmes (Ambrosa-Dynatech), at 35sec. 3, M Walsham (Triech), at 36sec. vC Norwich (Harleston, 88 miles) G Baker (Olympia Sport), 3:31.21. Ashfield RC (Selston, Notts, 60 miles) R Clough (Stretford Wheelers), 2.25.00. Angus RC (Forfar, 60 miles) D Smith (City of Edinburgh RC), 2.36.00. Drummond Trophy (Scottish Grand Prix series, Drumclog, 85 miles) D Wilson (Johnstone Wheelers), 3:40:02.

TIME TRIALS: Hounslow and Dist Wheelers (Newbury, 41 miles): P Holdsworth (Hounslow and District Whl, 1 41:16. Team: Hounslow and District Whl, 5 12:40. Belper BC (25 miles): G Platts (Coalville Wheelers), 54:14. Team: Coalville W, 2:52:34. Norland Combine (Tempsford, Bedfordshire, 25 miles): L Fish (Ickfield RC), 54:23. Team: Ickfield RC, 2:50:10. Redmon CC (Sussex, 25 miles): P Man (34 Nomads), 53.19. Team: 34 Nomads, 2:45:17 Bridwell Wheelers (North Notts, 25 miles): I Cammish (Velo V), 53.25. Team: VC Chesterfield, 2:50:41. West Cheshire TTCA (25 miles). P Hodgkinson (Crewe Clarion W), 55.12. Team: Crewe Clarion W, 2:55:24. Godric CC (Suffolk, 25 miles): A Newark (CC Brockford), 56:24 Easterley RC (Bishop's Stortford, 25 miles) S Hunt (VC Slough), 57:10. Team: Easterley RC, 3:13:30. Southampton Wheelers (25 miles): T Icke (Poole Wheelers), 58:08. Team: Poole W 3:01.46. Ross-on-Wye and District CC (hilly, 25 miles): R Rees (Bath CC), 58:43. Team: Gloucester City CC, 3:16 40 Bromsgrove Wheelers (Rugeley, hilly, 24.5 miles): D Willetts (Birchfield CC), 50:42. Team: Bromsgrove Wheelers, 3:08:25 Moray Firth CC (25 miles) C MacLean (Moray F CC), 59:52. Team: Moray F CC, 3.05 40. Louth Spire RRC (hilly, 22.5 miles): N Portess (Melton O), 56:19. Team: Lough Spire RC, 3:12:39. Cleveland Wheelers (team, 25 miles) GS Metro, 52 09 VC Friat Friars (Cambridge, two-up, 25 miles): E Adkins & G Dighton (Leo RC) 51:08. West Pennine RC (Bury, 16.5 miles): S Roberts (Huddersfield Star W), 41:58. Team: Barrow Central W 2 14:00.

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: British international championships: Men: England 10 Wales 2; Wales 6 Scotland 6. Women: England 4 Scotland 0; Wales 4 Scotland 0; England 3 Wales 1.

GOLF

HALFORD HEWITT TOURNAMENT: Third round: Shrewsbury bt Charterhouse 4-1; Harrow bt Stonyhurst 4-1, Berkhamsted bt Rossall 4-1; Liverpool bt Lancing 3-2. Watson's bt Whitgift 3½-1½; Fettes bt Repton 3½-1½; Stowe bt Bradfield 3-2; Clifton bt Dundle 3½-1½. Fourth round: Harrow bt Shrewsbury 4-1, Liverpool bt Berkhamsted 3½-1½; Watson's bt Fettes 3½-1½, Stowe bt Clifton 3-2. Semi-finals: Harrow bt Liverpool 4-1; Watson's bt Stowe 3-2. Final: Harrow bt Watson's 4-1.

TAIPEI: Men's tournament: Final scores (Taiwan unless stated): 208: D Chopra (Swe) 73, 65, 70 209: H C Sheng 69, 70, 70. 211: R Freles (Per) 72, 68, 71; C Tsepeng 68, 72, 71, K van Rensburg (SA) 67, 72, 72. 212: Kao Bo-song 71, 73, 68. 213: Yu Chen-hsin 71, 73, 69; M Zerman (It) 71, 72, 70; J Rutledge (Can) 72, 70, 71; B May (US) 71, 69, 73; M Thielen (USA) 70, 70, 73.

MATSUYAMA: Women's tournament: Final scores (Japan unless stated): 212: K Asai 69, 73, 70; H Ble-shyun (Taiw) 68, 72, 72. 215: Y Moriguchi 69, 72, 74. 217: M McGuire (NZ) 73, 72, 72.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 5 Tampa Bay 1; Hartford 4 Buffalo 2; Florida 2 NY Islanders 2; Montreal 2 Pittsburgh 1, Quebec 2 Ottawa 2; Toronto 4 Winnipeg 3; Philadelphia 3 Washington 1; Vancouver 4 Calgary 2.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Play-offs: Group A: Sheffield 6 Fife 0; Nottingham 7 Humberside 3 Group B: Edinburgh 8 Cardiff 6; Durham 5 Basingstoke 5. Promotion play offs: Group A: Peterborough 5 Slough 5; Paisley 12 Bracknell 9 (Bracknell relegated) Group B: Milton Keynes 5 Whitley 7; Swindon 8 Telford 11 (Milton Keynes relegated).

JUDO

BIRMINGHAM: British Open Championships: Men: Under-60kg: 1, J Johnson (GB), 2, N Donaghue (GB); equal 3, A Lang (Isr) and S Dunkley (GB). U65: 1, B Boudaoui (Fr); 2, S Moss (GB), equal 3, I Freeman (GB) and J Davies (GB). U71: 1, D Kingston (GB); 2, H Seidlitz (Ger); 3, B Meonsky (Isr). U78: 1, F Laurent (Fr); 2, A Arnaut (Fr); equal 3, G Szabo (Austria) and J Giord (Fr). U86: 1, N Stephens (Fr); 2, T Saakachvili (Fr), equal 3 B Amonsson (Fr) and Y Bertoni (Fr). U95: 1, R Stevens (GB); 2, P Lagoux (Fr); equal 3, E Muller (Ger) and E Fauroux (Fr). Over-95kg: 1, E Parrz (Sp); 2, E Grams (Ger); equal 3, F Guenat (Fr) and L Crost (Fr)

Women: Under-48kg: 1, B Seemens (Ger); 2, D Damman (Ger); equal 3, S Flynn (GB) and S Bruno (Fr). U52: 1 D Allan, 2, G Singlton (GB); 3, C Bain (Aus), 4, E Summers (GB). U56: 1, Y Einat (Isr); 2, K Pallard (Fr); equal 3, M Passulas (US) and L Roehke (US). U61: 1, M Blasco (Sp); 2 V Fazilers (Fr); equal 3, A Philipe (Fr) and S Wurm (Ger). U66: 1, K Powell (GB); 2, M Holt (GB); 3, R Sweatman (GB); 4, S van Oromburge (Bel). U72: 1, C Curto (Sp); 2, S Traserand (Fr), equal 3, L Stonneau (Fr) and C Piccoli (Fr). Over-72kg: 1, M van de Lee (Holl); 2, J Horton (GB); equal 3, R Barrentos (Sp) and G Posti (Fr).

LACROSSE

MEN: South: Motspur Park: Senior flags: Kenton 9 Hillcroft 7. Intermediates: Hillcroft 3 Hampstead 18 Minor flags: Croydon 6 Purley 5. North: Oldsbury: Senior flags: Cheadle 8 Mellor 4.

WOMEN: Edinburgh: International: Scotland 7 Wales 11. Scotland B 7 Wales B 9.

MOTORCYCLING

BELFUNG: World motocross championship: 125cc: First race: 1, M Meschio (Fr, Honda); 2, M Del Lago (It, Honda); 3, A Puzar (It, Honda); 4, D Strijbos (Holl, Suzuki); 5, A Chiodi (It, Yamaha); 6, C Ravaglia (It, Honda). Second race: 1, M Bertolini (It, TM); 2, Strijbo; 3, Chiodi; 4, Puzar; 5, Meschio, 6, E Camerlengo (It, Yamaha). Overall standings: 1, -Meschio 31pts: 2, Strijbos 30; 3, Puzar 28; 4, Chiodi 26; 5, Del Lago 25; 6, Bertolini 20. World championship standings (after second of 12 rounds): 1, Chiodi 56pts; 2, Puzar 58; 3, Meschio 46; 4, C Federici (It, Yamaha) 44.

VALKENSWAARD: World motocross championship: 250cc: First race: 1, S Evarts (Bel, Kawasaki); 2, T Vohland (US, Kawasaki); 3, R Van Raes (Holl, Kawasaki); 4, P Tragler (Holl, Suzuki); 5, L Giesbers (Holl, Suzuki), 6, P Ivan (Bel, Kawasaki). Second race: 1, Evarts; 2, W De Wit (Bel, Suzuki); 3, Y Demaris (Fr, Yamaha); 4, Tragler; 5, Ivan; 6, Giesbers. Overall standings: 1, Evarts 40pts; 2, Tragler 26; 3, Vohland 25; 4, De Wit 24; 5, Ivan 21; 6, Giesbers 21. World championship standings (after second of 15 rounds): 1, Evarts 61pts; 2, Vohland 50; 3, K Nicoll (GB, Honda) 46. 4, M Barvoets (Bel, Suzuki) 45.

NETBALL

TAURANGA: International match: New Zealand 40 England 39.

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land National Under-24 Championship: Quarter-finals: N Wood bt I Ronaldson 6-0, 6-3; D Jones bt M Noll (US) 6-4, 6-3; A Lyons bt A Smekrova 6-1; 6-2; R Gunn bt J Beaumont 6-2, 6-0.

ROWING

SCULLERS HEAD OF THE RIVER (Mortlake to Putney): 1, N O'Toole (Commercial, Dublin) 21min 16sec (Open Winner); 2, P Haning (Auriola/Kensington) 21:19; 3, G Pooley, (Leander) 21:21. Main division winners: Men: Senior 1: C Pierce (Tideway Scullers Tenth 22:11s. Senior 2: J Eliot (1st and 3rd Trinity, Cambs) Fourth 22:02. Senior 3: G Smith (Leander) Eighth 22:08. Novice: P Vondra (London) Fith 22:06. Lightweight: Open: P. Helford (London) 17th 22:15. Senior 1: S Ross (Kingston) 11th 22:12. Senior 2: J Warnock (London) 21st 22:18. Senior 3: D Clinton (Vesta) Seventh 22:09. Junior: T Westerling (Eton) 25th 22:21. Apprentice: M Hunter (Poplar and B) 93rd 22:54. Services: R Woods (RAF) 64th 22:43. Women: Open: G Betten (Thames) 117th 23:04. Senior 1: E Knight Barnard (Tideway S) 254th 24.34. Senior 2: M Bataff (Thames) 125th 23:11. Senior 3: E Laverick (Thames) 269th 24:45. Novice: A Stapleton (Thames) 210th 23:57. Lightweight: Open: S Appelboom (Mortlake A) 119th 23:07. Senior 1: K Brett (Staines) 331st 25:48. Senior 2: P Smith (Nottingham) 320th 25.38. Senior 3: R Frost (Thames) 303rd 25:20.

SHINTY

GLENMORANGIE SUTHERLAND CUP: Final: Fort William 1 Kilmallie 0.

GLENMORANGIE CAMANACHD CUP: Quarter-final, replay: Glenurquhart 1 Fort William 2.

KEYLINE MACAULAY CUP: Semi-final: Inverinver 3 Oban Camanachd 7.

MACTAVISH JUVENILE CUP: First round: Beauly 7 Strathglass 1; Kingussie 1 Skye 1

MARINE HARVEST LEAGUE: North: Second-division: Caberfeidh 6 Glengarry 2; Lochcarron 2 Strathglass 3. South: First division: Ballachulish 2 Strachur 0; Glenorchy 0 Obar Celtic 1; Kyles Athi 3 Glasgow Mid Argyll 1.

SHOOTING

BISLEY: Army Open Pistol Championships: Open: 1, A Lamont 1,133; 2, P Clark 1,130; Club Champion: J Calma 1,129. Standard pistol: Teams: 1, Regular Army 2,161; 2, RAF 2,142. Service pistol: 1, G Irving, 117; 2, M Jay 116; 3, J Rolfe 115. Army Club Champion: P. Walshaw 107. Centre fire: 1, M Gault 589; 2, A Lamont 581; 3, T Armstrong 577. Standard: 1, P Clark 568; 2, C Greenhough 563; 3, R Duckworth 562. Army Club: J Calma 561. Free pistol: 1, Leatherdale 559; 2, Gault 558; 3, N Baxter 548. Sport pistol: 1, Leatherdale 587; 2, Armstrong 578; 3, L Wright 575.

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British open: Semi-final: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 6-4; J Higgins (Scot) bt J Parrott (Eng) 6-2. Final: Higgins leads O'Sullivan 5-3.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Bradford 64 Belle Vue 32; King's Lynn 46 Poole 49; Cradley Heath 58 Peterborough 40; Coventry 50 Eastbourne 46, Swindon 53 Exeter 43; Ipswich 59 Sheffield 37

SQUASH

SHEFFIELD: National championships: Men: Quarter-finals: S Meads (Berks) bt C Leach, (Warwicks) 9-2, 9-1, 9-2; M Bennett (Yorks) bt N Cass (Yorks) 9-1, 10-9, 9-5; J Nicolle (Notts) bt D Campion (Yorks) 7-9, 0-9, 9-1, 9-5, 9-0; N Taylor (Lancs) bt P Lord (Cheshire) 6-9, 9-5, 9-5, 9-0. Semi-finals: S Meads (Berks) bt M Bennett (Yorks) 9-0, 9-2, 9-3.

Women. Quarter-finals: S Horner (Yorks) bt R MacRae (Essex) 9-0, 9-2, 9-3; L Charman (Sussex) bt S Wright (Kent) 4-9, 9-0, 9-5, 9-6; F Geaves (Gloucs) bt J Mates (Northumbria) 9-4, 9-0, 4-9, 9-5; C Jackman (Norfolk) bt D Vardy (Notts) 9-2, 9-5, 9-2. Semi-finals: L Charman (Sussex) bt S Horner (Yorks) 7-9, 1-9, 9-5, 9[illegible].

BRISTOL: Super League: Play-offs: semi-finals: Cannons C 3 Welsh Back W 0; Hornets Herts 8 Ogmore Valley Dragons 0.

TENNIS

LISBON: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: E Sanchez (Sp) bt N Marques (Port) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, F Santoro (Fr) bt G Schaller (Austria) 6-4, 6-3; T Muster (Austria) bt J Sanchez (Sp) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4; A Costa (Sp) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3. Semi-finals: Muster bt Sanchez 6-2, 6-4; Costa bt Santoro 6-1, 6-0. Final: Muster bt Costa 6-4, 6-2.

JOHANNESBURG: South African open: Quarter-finals: B Black (Zim) bt P Baur (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; M Sinner (Ger) bt J Ranzenbrink (Ger) 4-1, ret; G Raoux (Fr) bt L Roux (Fr) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6; J Bates (GB) bt N Godwin (SA) 6-3, 6-2. Semi-finals: Sinner bt Bates 6-1, 7-6, Raoux bt Black 7-6, 6-4. Final: Sinner bt Raoux 6-1, 6-4.

FLORIDA: Women's Tournament: Semi-finals: G Sabatini (Arg) bt S Hack (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; C Martinez (Sp) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-2, 6-3.

SUNDERLAND: LTA tour: Finals: Men: P Hand (Berks) bt T Spinks (Norfolk) 6-3 6-4. Women: K Cross (Devon) bt K Helal (Berks) 6-4 6-4.

DARLINGTON: LTA series: Semi-finals: Men: A Neal (Lincs) bt M Vucicevic (Bosnia) 7-5, 6-2; M Gilliam (Somerset) bt J Smith (Northants) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. Final: Gilliam bt Neal 6-1, 7-6. Women: J White (Northants) bt K Barker (Cambs) 6-3, 6-2, H Richardson (Northants) bt S Brodie (Northants) 6-2, 6-1; Final: Richardson bt White 6-1, 6-2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Castleford 25 Doncaster 18

Castleford: Tries: T Smith 4. Goals: Crooks 4. Dropped goal: Kemp Doncaster: Tries: Hayes. Manning, Pennant. Goals: Eaton 3. Att: 3,815.

Halifax 34 Featherstone 8

Halifax: Tries: Baldwin, Bentley, Gillespipe, Hales, Schuster. Goals: Schuster 7 Featherstone: Try: Gunn. Goals: Aaron 2. Att: 4,590.

Salford 48 Workington 16

Salford: Tries: Panapa 3, Ford 2, Martin, Johnathan Quigley, Randall. Goals: Blackley 6, Myler. Workington: Tries: Armstrong, Carter, Mulligan. Goals: Marwood 2. Att: 2,651.

Sheffield 12 Oldham 17

Sheffield: Tries: Broadbent, Stott. Goals: Briggs, Stott. Oldham: Tries: Bate, Jones, Lord, Topping. Dropped goal: Crompton. Att: 2,200.

Wakefield 29 Widnes 18

Wakefield: Tries: Wright 2, Spencer, Thompson. Goals: Wright 8. Dropped goal: Wright. Widnes: Tries: Devereux, Green, McCurrie, Ruane. Att: 2,504.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	28	24	0	2	954	318	48
Leeds	27	22	1	4	773	470	45
St Helens	27	18	1	8	790	572	37
Halifax	27	17	2	8	713	488	36
Warrington	27	17	2	8	704	489	36
Castleford	28	16	2	8	701	522	34
Bradford	26	15	1	10	705	514	31
Sheffield	27	12	0	15	532	643	24
Oldham	26	10	1	15	470	642	21
Salford	27	9	1	17	548	713	19
Workington	27	9	1	17	428	703	19
Wakefield	27	9	0	18	408	665	18
Featherstone	28	8	1	17	482	600	17
Widnes	28	8	1	17	405	509	17
Hull	27	6	1	20	517	798	13
Doncaster	27	5	1	21	425	839	11

(Does not include Wigan v Bradford)

Second division

Bramley 18 Barrow 8

Bramley: Tries: Fisher, Garratt, Greenwood. Goals: Long 3 Barrow: Tries: Ashcroft. Goals: Ruane 2 Att: 250.

Carlisle 22 Leigh 20

Carlisle: Tries: Charlton, Hale, Paxton, Thurlow Goals: Richardson 3. Leigh: Tries: Liku 2, Ingram, O'Loughlin Goals: Wilkinson 2. Att: 250

Highfield 14 Hunslet 44

Highfield: Tries: Bannon, Del Farro Goals: Rippon 3. Hunslet: Tries: Limb 3, Brook 2. Mick Coyle, Viller, Watson. Goals: Pell 5, Close. Att: 278.

Hull KR 10 Batley 33

Hull KR: Tries: Sibby, Dearlove. Goals: Lumb Batley: Tries: Tomlinson 3 Harrison, Moxon Goals: Wilson 6. Dropped goal: McWilliams. Att: 3,003

Keighley 42 Swinton 6

Keighley: Tries: Kenyon 3 Wood 3, Race, Robinson Goals: Wood 5 Swinton: Try: Ashcroft. Goal: Gartland. Att: 4,221.

London B 24 Huddersfield 24

London Broncos: Tries: Dorric 2, Evans, Roskell. Goals: Booth 4. Huddersfield: Tries: Austin, Phi Hellewell, King Pearce Goals: Pearce 4 Att: 1,360

Rochdale 30 Ryedale York 18

Rochdale: Tries: Anderson, England, Gibson, Reid, Sharp Goals: Strett 5 Ryedale York: Tries: Deakin, Gascoigne, Laurence. Goals: Precious 2 Att: 926

Whitehaven 37 Dewsbury 12

Whitehaven: Tries: Graham Leuthwaite 2, Friend, Pechey, Routledge, Whee. Goals: L Anderson 6 Dropped goal: Friend. Dewsbury: Tries: Fisher, Williams. Goals: Graham 2. Att: 902.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keighley	27	21	1	5	834	306	43
Batley	27	21	0	6	664	379	42
Huddersfield	27	18	2	7	788	458	38
London B	27	18	1	8	638	440	37
Whitehaven	26	17	0	9	631	455	34
Hull KR	27	16	1	10	772	431	33
Rochdale	27	16	0	11	729	504	32
Dewsbury	27	15	1	11	640	450	31
Ryedale York	27	13	2	12	646	523	28
Hunslet	27	14	0	13	545	691	28
Bramley	26	10	0	16	498	525	20
Leigh	27	10	0	17	558	693	20
Swinton	27	10	0	17	522	717	20
Carlisle	27	7	0	20	501	822	14
Barrow	27	4	0	23	388	769	8
Highfield	27	1	0	26	212	1406	2

National Conference League

Premier division

Egremont 20 Wigan St P 46
Hemel H 38 Askam 16
Haworth 46 Leigh MW 24

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wooleton	14	12	0	2	337	144	24
Chorley	19	11	1	7	431	284	23
Haworth	15	11	0	4	356	281	22
Hemel H	21	11	0	10	453	358	22
West Hull	15	10	0	5	265	225	20
Mayfield	18	8	1	9	340	351	17
Leigh M W	20	8	1	11	311	434	17
Egremont	18	8	0	10	335	334	16
Wigan St Pat	17	8	0	9	235	306	16
Saddleworth	16	7	1	8	280	271	15
Dudley Hill	19	7	0	12	323	437	14
Askam	16	1	0	15	180	450	2

BNFL National Cup

Quarter-finals

Hensingham 33 Mayfield 20
Milom 11 West Hull 27
Thornhill 29 West Bowling 13
Barrow Island 12 Wooleton 19

Winfield Cup

Illawarra 34 Gold Coast 16
Canterbury 42 Perth 0
S Queensland 16 Norths 12
Canberra 17 St George 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manly	5	5	0	0	162	50	10
Newcastle	5	5	0	0	157	70	10
Brisbane	5	5	0	0	139	56	10
Canberra	5	5	0	0	123	40	10
Sydney B	5	4	0	1	131	62	8
North Sydney	5	3	0	2	154	78	6
Cronulla	5	3	0	2	108	68	6
Illawarra	5	3	0	2	138	119	6
Western Sub	5	3	0	2	115	126	6
Sydney City	5	2	0	3	109	113	4
Penrith	5	2	0	3	100	119	4
Tigers	5	2	0	3	102	139	4
Western Reds	5	2	0	3	62	154	4
Auckland	5	1	0	4	120	151	2
St George	5	1	0	4	80	120	2
Parramatta	5	1	0	4	86	132	2
South Sydney	5	1	0	4	90	152	2
Gold Coast	5	1	0	4	72	154	2
S Queens	5	1	0	4	36	124	2
N Queens	5	0	0	5	68	138	0

Siran Stacy, right, of the Scottish Claymores, grapples with the Rhein Fire defence during the Claymores' debut in the World League of American football yesterday. The Claymores lost 17-19. Photo: Ian Waldie

HOCKEY

HA Cup Semi-finals

Formby 1 Teddington 4
Formby: Capper 57 Teddington: Laslett 30, 48, Wallis 20 McGuire 47

Guildford 5 Isca 1
Guildford: Hall 15, 56, Markham 16, 68, Jennings 64 Isca: Skinner 62.

AEWH CUP: Quarter-finals: Ealing 0 Exmouth 4; Harleston Magpies 0 Trojans 2; Balsam 7 Winchester 0, Hightown 2 Chelmsford 0. Plate: Quarter-finals: Pressed Steel Fisher 3 Kettering 5, Camberley 0 Crimson Ramblers 1, Chester 2 West Bromwich 3; Crosby 0 Liverpool 3.

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WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

PREMIER DIVISION: Bracknell 0 Hightown 6, Clifton 1 Belsam Leicester 2; First Personnel Sutton Coldfield 6 Chelmsford 0; Ipswich 3 Slough 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	14	12	1	1	41	9	37
Hightown	14	8	4	2	32	10	28
Ipswich	14	9	1	4	22	15	28
Sutton C	14	5	4	5	19	16	19
Leicester	14	4	5	5	14	16	17
Clifton	14	4	2	8	14	24	14
Bracknell	14	2	3	9	8	29	9
Chelmsford	14	1	2	11	11	40	5

FIRST DIVISION: Bushey 1 Wimbledon 1; Canterbury 2 Ealing 1. Doncaster 3 Bradford Swithenbank 0. Trojans 0 Exmouth 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doncaster	14	12	0	2	29	8	36
Trojans	14	8	1	5	25	12	25
Wimbledon	14	6	5	3	20	15	23
Exmouth	14	6	3	5	16	17	21
Canterbury	14	5	4	5	13	17	19
Bradford	14	4	3	7	20	27	15
Bluehearts	14	2	4	8	10	22	10
Ealing	14	2	2	10	11	26	8

SECOND DIVISION: Olton WW 5 Great Harwood 0; St Albans 2 Pickwick 2, Sherwood 1 Loughborough Students 1, Sunderland Bedlars 2 Woking 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	14	8	4	2	26	16	28
Loughboro S	14	7	5	2	25	15	26
Olton	14	8	1	5	29	12	25
Woking	14	6	4	4	25	18	22
Sherwood	14	5	4	5	16	22	19
St Albans	14	5	3	6	15	18	18
Blackburn	14	2	5	7	20	36	11
Pickwick	14	1	2	11	11	32	5

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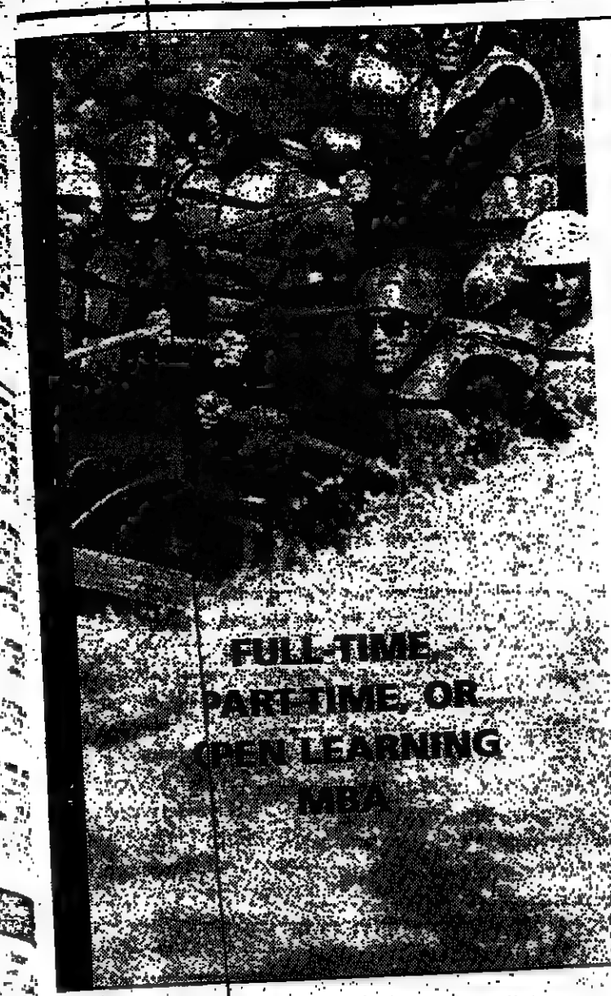

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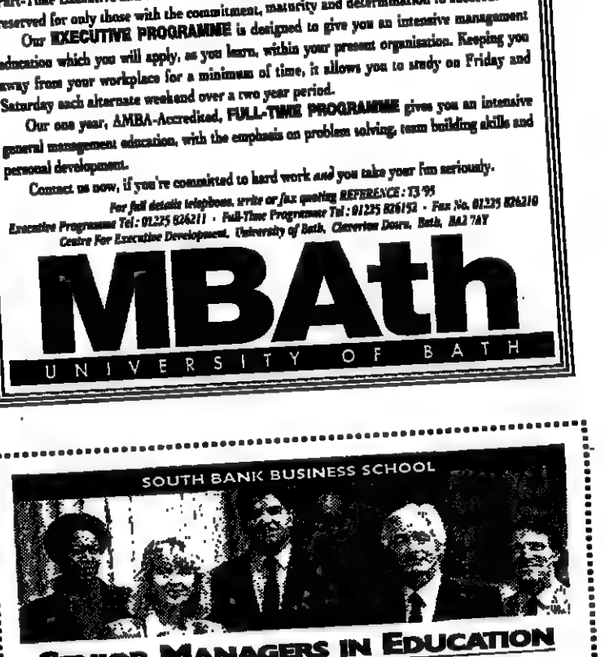

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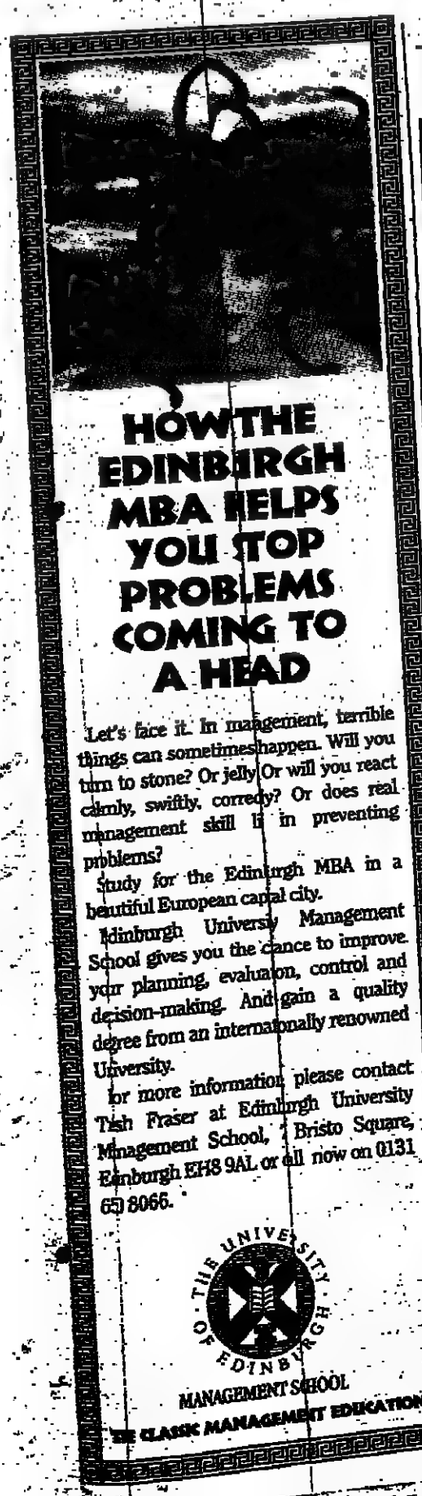

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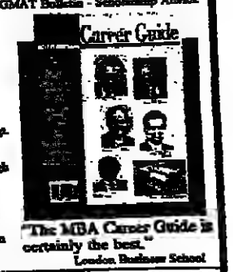

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EDUCATION

Museums' party piece

Schoolchildren are in for a treat at some of our dusty old institutions, says **David Tytler**

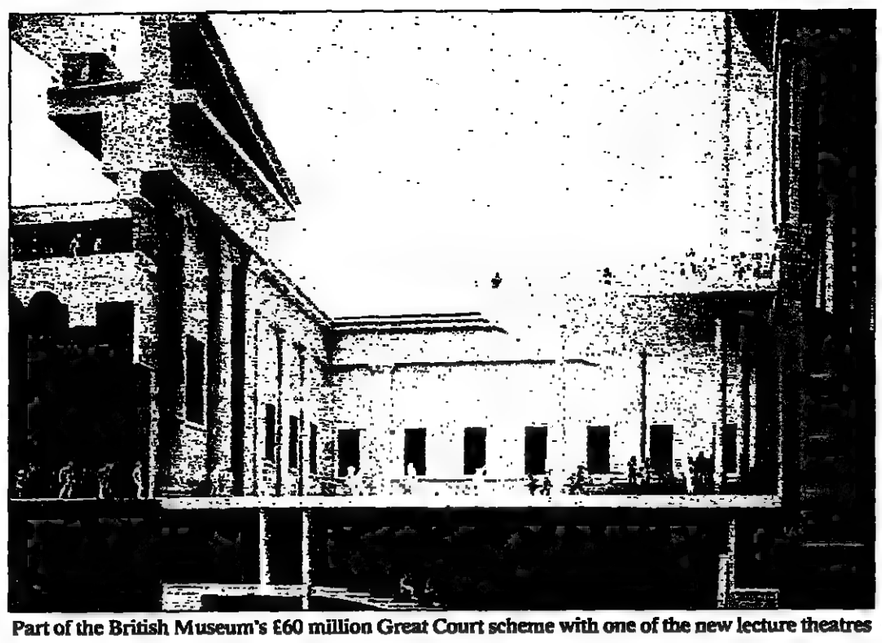
They are our hidden universities, with some of the leading academics in their fields, the best specialist libraries and the stuff of history at their fingertips — yet they work largely unsung and unknown. Now Britain's museums are coming into the marketplace to sell their wares.

Critics say that because of the free market they are losing sight of their real purpose: that catchpenny exhibitions are there only to attract entrance fees. The museums naturally disagree, and say their treasures and expertise are for everyone.

This week the British Museum, which charges no fees, and the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich present new facilities for schools, whose pupils are visiting them in unprecedented numbers. Geoffrey House, head of public services at the British Museum, says they are remaining true to the original Act of Parliament that set them up in 1753 to be a place for the "learned and the curious".

The museum plans to celebrate its 250th anniversary with a £60 million development of the Great Court housing the Round Reading Room of the British Library, which will be moved to new premises as soon as they are complete. Sir Norman Foster, the architect, won the competition for the scheme to include an expanded education department, now being considered by the Millennium Fund.

Sir Norman's plan will in effect create a new square in the heart of London the size of Wembley Stadium, with restaurants and shops, and more in keeping with the 1823 vision of the architect Robert Smirke, who saw a central courtyard at the heart of the building giving access to all the galleries. It was a vision never realised, because within two years of completion in 1850 it was decided to house the British Library in the Round Reading Room. Since then the surrounding courtyard has become a shanty town of book stacks.



Part of the British Museum's £60 million Great Court scheme with one of the new lecture theatres

The reading room will house the museum's information centre, where visitors will be able to find out for themselves more about the collection and cultures in the museum through reference books and a computerised database. The detailed plans, to be announced this week, include seminar rooms, two lecture theatres, improved research facilities, and interactive and virtual reality computer systems which, says the museum, will allow visitors "to walk through the Acropolis in the 5th century BC".

Anticipating groans from the traditionalists, Mr House says: "The reading room will remain a library. The furniture, the whole ambience, is of a library, and it must remain a library. Study rooms will continue to exist for people who need that kind of depth. For others, we will make our collection more accessible, telling them more about it and where they can find what they need."

Of the six million visitors to the museum every year about 160,000 are children in school parties, three times the number before the introduction of the national curriculum in 1988. Up to 1,000 a day can be in the museum, whose school dining-room seats only 30.

Mr House says: "We have a full programme of events and lectures now but we are limited by lack of space. We will be able to bring education into the middle of the museum, where people will be able to come all day and into the evening, with a regular programme of lectures and events."

While the British Museum's plans are for the future, the National Maritime Museum is opening a new £40,000 children's gallery as part of its £1.3 million education centre. The "All Hands Gallery" is designed for children aged five to 11, and will allow them to discover history for themselves through the five ages of seamanship and their accompanying skills.

Starting with the Vikings, the gallery will take children through 15th-century explorers and Victorian shipbuilders to Tracy Edwards, who completed the 1989-90 Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race with an all-female crew.

As well as the lives of the seafarers, children will be able to experience the skills they needed, such as cargo handling, by loading a model boat which will capsize if incorrectly packed, or signalling with flags, an Aldis lamp and Morse key. They will also be able to practise their gunnery skills using a canon and a computer.

Helene Mitchell, who planned the new gallery, says that the museum has been careful not to fall into the trap of designing a gallery that was fun but had little relation to the real purpose of the museum. "Everything is linked to exhibits already held by the museum and they will be shown in glass cases alongside the hands-on displays."

Last year 107,000 children visited Greenwich in school parties, and the displays are carefully linked to specific areas of the national curriculum. Schools will be able to buy an annual pass for £60 for unrestricted pre-booked visits.

Treat with care

Ben Preston on the needy children failed by the system

THE CHILDREN who need education the most are youngsters who have faced the family break-ups, neglect, abuse and sudden changes of school and home that come too frequently with being "looked after" by the state.

Yet many of the 45,000 schoolchildren in care miss school regularly and few gain qualifications. A powerful new study by the Social Services Inspectorate and the Office for Standards in Education explains that teachers spend too much time trying to counsel children on their problems, rather than helping them to pass the examinations they need to lead fulfilled adult lives.

The report, based on the school records of 1,200 children in residential or foster homes in four local authorities, paints a bleak portrait of a muddled system that squanders the goodwill of numerous individual teachers and social workers. It argues that the interests of children are too often lost in a bureaucratic tangle.

As a result, too many children are left to underachieve at school without the help — or threat — of someone acting as an interested parent over the years to encourage them. The inspectors report that children in care usually lag behind classmates in primary school, and many actually regress at secondary school.

Most worrying, truancy becomes endemic among teenagers. The inspectors found that one in four children in care aged 14-16 skipped lessons regularly. The finding tallies depressingly with previous research highlighting the links between care, crime, homelessness and prison. The Prison Reform Trust found that almost 40 per cent of prisoners in young offender institutions and nearly one quarter of those in adult prisons have been in care.

THE RECORD of local authority children's homes has been under increasing scrutiny recently. The Audit Commission disclosed last year that in some it costs up to £100,000 — eight times the annual fees for Eton College — to look after a child. On average, the cost of a place was £30,000 per child, yet this provided poor value for the 10,000 children in homes, because most were inadequate.

But the problems detailed by the joint Ofsted and SSI report are systemic. Parent or other adults with parental responsibility are not kept properly informed of their child's progress and rarely take a concerted interest. Performance at school is also hampered by "drift and delay" surrounding decisions about where children should be looked after.

Children complained to researchers that teachers knew too much about their personal lives. The information was then either used "too sympathetically to condone unacceptable behaviour" or was used to label a child as "difficult".

David Sington, a senior Ofsted inspector, underlined the need for a cultural change in the way teachers treat such children: "Teachers often see the personal and family problems of children in care as so overwhelming that they need to be tackled before they can address the problem of raising their academic achievement. But we feel that we cannot postpone a child's education progress."

Mr Singleton said that each child should be given a named key worker as one clear, practical step on the long hall to improvement: "Because young people have difficulties, it does not mean we should not expect a lot of them. They have the potential to achieve."

CLAIRE Selby, 17, had excellent school reports until two years ago, and was expected to get eight high-grade GCSEs. But at 15 she went into local authority care and her educational prospects collapsed.

"When I turned 16 the social services took me away from my foster parents and put me in a bed and breakfast with drug addicts and criminals. I had a lot of time off school because people were very judgmental that I was in care. Some teachers tried to be supportive but they didn't know what they were doing. Then Barnardo's found me a shared house and treated me as if I was the only one they'd got who needed help.

"Now I'm doing a Youth Training Scheme in retail, and I have applied for college in September to do three GCSEs, but my priority is getting money and somewhere permanent to live."

Michelle Leslie, 16, has been in care since the age of four. During adolescence she was regularly moved, registering at five schools in six years. She ran away numerous times and was expelled from her last school for disruptive behaviour.

"I was never brilliant at school but I sometimes tried quite hard. I wanted to go to university but I didn't know anyone from care who had done that. Teachers aren't interested if you don't have a real parent demanding results. My work slumped every time I moved schools. I am trying hard to believe I have a future but sometimes that seems like a joke."

LUCY BERRINGTON

Claire Siby: long struggle

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Further details about this challenging appointment and the method of application may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Prior Park College, BATH, Avon, BA2 5AB.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Faculty of Music

Heather Professorship of Music

The electors intend to proceed to an election to the Heather Professorship of Music, which falls vacant on 1 October 1996, upon the retirement of Professor B.L.Trowell. The stipend of the professorship is at present £35,859 per annum.

A non-stipendiary professorial fellowship at Wadham College is attached to the professorship.

The closing date for applications for the professorship is 30 May 1995.

Readership in Music
In association with St Catherine's College

Applications are invited for this post tenable from 1 October 1995 or 1 January 1996 or as soon as possible thereafter. Stipend according to age on the scale £27,018 - £30,533 per annum. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by St Catherine's College for which additional emoluments would be payable. The post is offered without restriction of field. Experience of teaching and of the supervision of research students is required together with a proven high standard of research ability.

The closing date for applications for the readership is 30 June 1995.

University Lecturership in Music
In association with St Peter's College and St Edmund Hall

Applications are invited for this post tenable from 1 October 1995 or as soon as possible thereafter. Stipend according to age on the scale £14,756 - £27,473 per annum. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by St Peter's College and a lecturership by St Edmund Hall for which additional emoluments would be payable.

Experience of teaching, and a proven high standard of research ability are required and preference will be given to candidates specialising in the field of musical analysis.

The closing date for applications for the university lecturership is 19 May 1995.

Separate further particulars for the post of Reader in Music and University Lecturer in Music, containing details of the duties and the full range of emoluments attaching to both the University and the college posts, and of the Heather Professorship, may be obtained from the Registrar, University of Oxford, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, to whom applications should be sent by the appropriate closing date.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

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Further particulars, containing details of the duties and full range of emoluments, may be obtained from the Secretary of the Modern History Board, Modern History Faculty, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BD (telephone 01865 277253), to whom applicants should send nine copies of their application (except for overseas candidates, who need send only one) by 6 May 1995. At the request of the selection committee, to avoid delay over the vacation period, candidates are asked to arrange for three references to be sent to the above address by the closing date.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named companies are required on or before the 28th day of April 1995 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to G H Hughes the Joint Liquidator of the said companies, and, if so required, by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, or their solicitors or persons, by their solicitors or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 27th day of March 1995
G H Hughes
Joint Liquidator

In the Matters of De MORGAN & CO LTD, WOOLGATE PROPERTY FINANCE LTD, THE RETAIL GROUP LIMITED. The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986 In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, D J Buchler of Buchler Phillips, 84 Grosvenor Street, London, W1X 9DF, give notice that on 8th March 1995 I was appointed Joint Liquidator of the above companies by a resolution of the members and subsequently by the creditors on 22nd March 1995. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named companies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 22nd May 1995 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned D J Buchler of 84 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9DF, the Joint Liquidator of the said companies, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Dated 27th March 1995. D J BUCHLER, Joint Liquidator

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Members of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society will be held in the principal office, Amicable House, 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5NQ, on Tuesday, 25th April 1995, at 4.00 pm.

By Order of the Directors
J. C. Mitchell, Secretary
8th March 1995

Scottish Amicable

LEGAL NOTICES

TRAFALGAR HOUSE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED
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COMPANY NUMBER: 1198418

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Rosser Smith, KPMG, PO Box 730, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 12 May 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.

Note: the company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.

Dated: 5 April 1995
R Smith - Liquidator

W WEBB & SON LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of W Webb & Son Limited will be held at Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, Gray's Inn, London, WC1 on Thursday the 13th day of April 1995 at 10.15 am, for the purposes provided for in Sections 98, 100 and 101. A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, during business hours on the 11th and 12th days of April 1995 at the offices of Beable Nation & Partners, Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, Gray's Inn, London, WC1V 6HZ. Dated this 4th day of April 1995 By Order of the Board G E KINGSTON, Director

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire on Tuesday, 2nd May, 1995 at 12 noon for the following purposes:
1. To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th September, 1994 and the Report of Council and of the Auditors.
2. To elect a President, a Chairman of Council, Trustees and Vice-Presidents to hold office from October 1995.
3. To take cognizance of the appointment by the Council of Nominated Members of Council, and of the election of Ordinary Members by division pursuant to the Bye-Laws.
4. To appoint Auditors to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
By Order of the Council,
J P JOHNSON
Secretary
National Agricultural Centre
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 001685 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF REMWAY INVESTMENTS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 16th March 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction in the capital of the above named Company from £1,000,000 to £250,001.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 26th April 1995.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing of the Petition in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring it by the same to the undermentioned solicitors on the payment of the regular charge for the same.

Dated this 10th day of April 1995
Rawlison & Butler of Griffin House
135 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex RH10 1DQ
Solicitors
for the above named Company

CRISFORD nee BALDWIN, MIRIAM MAY ALICE CRISFORD nee BALDWIN, Widow late of Broadstairs, Kent, died at Margate, Kent on 6 January (Estate about £55,000)

FARO, OLAJIDE LATI OJINDE FARO otherwise OLA FARO late of South Lambeth, London SW8 died at Southwark, London SE1 on 11 April 1994 (Estate about £9,000)

FRAPWELL nee REDMAN, MADGE FRAPWELL nee REDMAN Widow late of Greenford, Middlesex died at Southall, Middlesex on 21 August 1994 (Estate about £8,500)

GOODE, RAYMOND ARTHUR EDWARD GOODE otherwise RAYMOND GOODE late of North Kensington, London W10 died there on or about 27 December 1994 (Estate about £10,000)

MAXWELL, WILLIAM ROBERT MAXWELL late of Ethnard, London SE3 died there on 7 November 1991 (Estate about £6,400)

SIDDONS formerly BOURNE, ROY SIDDONS formerly EDGAR HALSEY BOURNE late of Cullompton, Devon died there on 23 May 1994 (Estate about £11,000)

SLADE, FREDERICK JAMES SLADE late of Hammersmith, London W6 died there on 30 June 1990 (Estate about £10,000)

WALSH, JAMES BARTHOLOMEW WALSH late of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died there on 7 October 1993 (Estate about £7,000)

WILSON, ALLAN ARTHUR GEORGE WILSON late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 24 February 1993 (Estate about £29,000)

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

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Capitalisation, week's change

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BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
6,420.60	Abbey Ntl†	489	+ 18½	4.5	10.5	
1,853.10	Allied Irish†	278	+ 8	3.1	10.7	
3,055.10	Aus New Z	526	+ 12	5.1	8.2	
11,047.60	Bank America	3156½	+131½			
2,940.00	Bank Scotland	225½	+ 11	2.9	12.7	
10,595.60	Barclays†	647½	+ 24½	4.1	9.5	
1,535.00	Bk of Ireland	303	+ 9	4.5	9.4	
149.60	Cater Allen	459		7.7	9.5	
10,946.50	Citicorp	2812½	+150			
248.50	Close Brost	261	+ 5	3.8	11.8	
4,579.30	Commerzbk	1140½	-47½	3.8		
26,922.00	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1184½	+ 43½	0.5		
14,514.00	Deutsche Bk	2385½	+138½	2.4		
129.80	Espirito Santo	652½	+ 9½	12.4		
37,923.90	Fuji Bank Y	1309	- 38½	0.5		
202.10	Gerard Nat	415	- 1	7.2	13.0	
365.00	Hambros	218	+ 5	8.5	13.4	
5,165.50	HSBC†	735	+ 28	4.6	9.1	
12,506.00	HSBC HK†	713	+ 25	4.7	9.0	
19.30	Joseph (L)	385	- 18	6.0	10.6	
16.00	King Shaxson	92	+ 1	12.2	9.1	
858.40	Kleinwort Benj	843	- 4	4.2	12.5	
8,183.90	Lloyds†	630½	+ 34½	5.1	10.6	
7,134.90	Nat Aust Pk	533	+ 16	6.4	9.2	
9,506.90	Nat West†	547	+ 14	4.9	9.2	
118.80	Ottakar Bank	237½		6.8	3.3	
23.70	Rea Bros	57	- 1	2.2		
3,304.20	Rbl Bk Scot	412	+ 6	4.2	11.8	
1,543.00	Schroders†	1543	+ 18	1.7	15.1	
392.90	Schroders: NVV	1355	+ 10	1.9	12.4	
198.30	Singer & Fried	82				
2,866.40	Stand Chartd†	296	+ 1	3.4	8.9	
3,741.30	TSB	244½	- 3½	4.6	10.4	
21.50	Union†	81	- 8	4.8		
1,612.60	Wbrborg SG	733	+ 16	3.8	13.4	
5,118.80	Wells Fargo	990½	+23½	2.9		
4,208.50	Westpac	330½	+ 11	3.4		
17.40	Wintrust	205	- 5	6.5	13.7	

BREWERIES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
41.10	Ascot Hldgs	140	+ 5			
4,908.80	Bass	561	+ 12	4.7	13.9	
326.30	Boddingtons†	270	+ 15	4.1	13.9	
33.50	Burtonwd Brw	161	- 4	4.0	13.5	
31.10	Eldridge P "A"	150	- 4	3.4	18.2	
1,706.00	Fosters Brewing	53	+ 2½	5.2	13.7	
73.40	Fuller Sm "A"	360	+ 4	1.7	14.9	
1,034.00	Greenalls Gp	449	+ 8	3.6	14.8	
215.60	Grosvn Wrcs	509	+ 6	3.3	13.8	
48.40	Hardy Hsons	242	- 1	4.9	11.6	
3.59	Heavitree	155		3.6	11.6	
104.60	Holt J	330		1.8	18.6	
150.90	Marstonld	205	+ 11	2.5	14.4	
262.60	Morton Thmp	292	+ 1	2.6	14.2	
94.40	Morland	435	+ 25	3.1	13.1	
9.14	Paramount†	7½	+ ½	4.6	18.3	
50.20	Regent Inns	339	- 2	2.2	19.4	
4,749.50	SA Breweries	1700	- 37½	1.7	27.3	
2,868.50	Scot & Nwc	541	+ 10	4.0	16.5	
318.70	Vaux Group	298	+ 11	5.4	12.9	
167.70	Wetherspoon .ID	452		1.9	21.2	
2,571.10	Whitbread	567	+ 16	4.2	13.5	
339.00	Wolverhmptn D	511	+ 1	3.4	13.3	
88.40	Yorks Brew	205	- 1	2.5	16.2	
13.20	Young "A"	455	- 1	4.1	19.2	

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
48.40	Abbey	125	- 5	5.2	9.1	
49.40	Allen	153		4.8	14.1	
146.70	Amec	72	+ 1	1.4		
[illegible]	Ardmore Sytec	157	+ 1			
131.60	Ashland	433	+ 2	1.7	10.5	
38.70	Ascotgate†	99		6.2		
3.62	Bailey (Benj) Con	34½	- 3½	3.9		
6.92	Bancon	37				
346.10	Barratt (Sam)	189	- ½	4.3	13.2	
384.70	Beazer (Hldgs)	137	- 1	4.8	10.3	
207.30	Bellway	212	+ 8	4.1	12.5	
14.40	Bellwinch	32		0.8	17.2	
292.20	Berkeley Gp	377	+ 11	3.4	12.0	
26.30	Bell Bros	108	- 3	3.3	5.2	
52.20	Bost. (Henry)	200	- 5	4.2	9.8	
20.90	Brandon Hire	126	- 1	1.8	21.7	
14.00	Br Bldg & Engr	125		8.0	17.2	
299.70	Bryant†	139	- 1	4.8	10.5	
491.90	CALA†	116	+ 5	3.2	13.2	
4.75	Campbell & Arm	33	- 4			
0.60	Crane Pt	52		9.6		
71.20	Costain	17½				
72.30	Countryside†	98	+ 1	5.5	12.1	
76.20	Crest Nicholson†	76	- 1	3.3	10.8	
15.10	Dussmann†	65		0.8		
12.70	Eastwood Hldgs	29		4.1		
21.40	Eve Group	210	- 7	5.3	8.9	
16.00	Galliford	21½		5.8		
1.46	Gibbs & Dandy†	30		4.4		
84.30	Glasson (AJ)	535	- 3	5.2	16.9	
5.54	Green (Engl)†	73		1.8	16.3	
53.80	Hanson, Cons	205	+ 2	1.1	13.2	
408.20	Henderson†	178	+ 16	2.4	17.3	
51.50	Higgs & Hill	78	+ 3	4.1		
4.67	Howard Hldgs	10		0.8	13.9	
3.65	Jarvis	9				
57.10	Jeffrey	102	- 3	4.0		
91.60	Laing (JM)	200	+ 4½	0.5		
34.10	Laing (J) & Co Pf	50	- 1	0.4		
88.00	Lon Concrete	117		5.7	12.4	
16.80	Lovell (YJ)†	40	- 4	3.1	4.9	
48.20	Mowlem† (JT)	165	- 1	3.7	10.2	
160.70	McAlpine (J)	145	+ 6	5.3		
31.30	McCorquodale	40			18.3	
14.70	Morgan Sndall	91	- 2			
139.70	Murdoch (JT)†	80	+ ½	3.1	41.1	
321.30	Persimmon†	195	+ 8	3.8	12.6	
17.80	Pochin	170½	- 8½	2.4	12.0	
87.50	Prowting	113		4.0	17.5	
31.70	Ryan (Ind)	27½	+ 4	11.4	5.7	
4.88	Sacon Hldgs	43			14.5	
248.10	Sherwood†	112	+ 1	3.0	13.1	
8.32	Smith-Rite	34	+ 3	1.8	24.8	
38.60	Stanhl Hldgs	364		2.0	16.2	
5.80	Stancro	12	+ 1	9.0	12.8	
95.30	Tarmac	203	- 1	1.1		
45.40	Tay Homes†	110	- 2½	2.1	11.1	
458.30	Taylor Woodrow†	110	+ 3½	3.4	21.0	
158.50	Tilbury Dougls	493	- 7	1.4		
9.07	Tons Hldgs	55	- 1	3.0	18.5	
12.50	Try Group†	18	+ 1	5.8	25.3	
48.40	Vibroplant	107	+ 3	4.4	13.2	
70.90	Wainhomes	114	+ 6	6.4	12.3	
26.30	Ward Hldgs	50		3.8		
90.00	Wimpey	146	+ 4	4.7	13.2	
19.70	Higgins	4				
211.00	Wilson (C)	162	+ 2	3.6	11.8	
217.60	Wilson Bowin	340	+ 8	3.8	12.3	
449.30	Wimpey GI	130	+ 1	0.3	16.1	

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
8.63	Abingdon	8	- ½	6.9	15.2	
103.30	Alumasc†	203	- 2	2.5	16.7	
2.00	Amberley Gp	61	- 1	1.6	20.2	
1,467.60	BPB Ind	283	+ 13	3.8	14.0	
32.20	Baggeridge Brk	120	+ 2	3.0	13.3	
177.40	Banda	32	+ 1	6.1		
14.90	Blackwy	82	+ 5	7.1		
2,391.80	Blue Circle	313	+ 16	4.8	18.6	
23.50	Braxton PLC	84	+ 3	7.5		
22.30	Br Dredging	133	+ 1	5.3	16.0	
1,313.30	CRH†	973	+ 9	3.7		
2.50	Capparoll Rby	43	- 3	3.0		
107.10	Caunt	198		0.9	14.4	
1,036.90	Cleveland	257	+ 1½	4.6	12.9	
234.90	Caudon Pf	130½	+ 2	0.9		
3.67	Chelsea Gdn†	31		12.1	11.5	
1.73	Dyson (JBJ)	108		4.2	15.8	
0.83	Dyson "A"	83		6.9	9.8	
20.80	Eclipse Blnds	16½	+ ½			
65.50	Epwin	308	+ 8	3.8		
27.60	Fetter	87	- 2	4.4		
189.10	Graham Gtrpt	186	- 3	4.0		
102.30	Halstead (J)	371	- 3	2.8	15.3	
738.70	Hepworth†	304	+ 10½	6.1	14.7	
7.44	Heselton	80		2.3	13.9	
8.36	Hewit (J)	63	+ 1	2.7		
249.30	Hewd Wlmt	280	+ 11	6.6	12.4	
207.80	Ibstock	83	+ 1	1.5		
31.00	Jewson	252	- 16	4.4		
24.10	Lindustry†	15		7.1	10.2	
418.40	Marley†	125	- 3	4.7	11.1	
168.90	Marshalls	138	- 5	4.1	12.9	
398.50	Meyer Int	316	+ 11	4.5	12.5	
335.60	Newman Tonks†	198		1.5	13.8	
1.38	Norcros	73	+ 1½	11.1	8.8	
5.57	Pilkins Tmbrs	16				
1,260.30	Pilkington	169	+ 5	3.0	12.6	
231.30	Polypipe†	147½	+ 2½	2.0	15.5	
2,080.50	RMC Gp	1049	+ 40	2.8	21.6	
1.92	Ramco	8				
2,346.50	Redland	453	+ 17	4.7	14.0	
17.60	Ryobi†	117	+ 2	4.8	17.0	
776.70	Rugby Group†	122	+ 1	1.2	14.7	
21.30	Russell (AV)	82	+ 3½	3.4		
198.30	SGB	243	+ 2	3.1		
3.01	SIG	12	+ ½	4.1		
38.50	Sharp & Fisher†	174	+ 1	0.6		
176.60	Spring Ram	39	- 1	1.6		
1,041.40	Tarmac	113	- 2	6.1		
16.90	Tates	165		3.6	12.6	
301.50	Trav. Perkins†	203	+ 3½	3.8		
3.15	Tudor	26		1.1		
12.30	Unigroup	38				
0.90	Warnbrook	26				
398.70	Wickes	107	+ 1	2.1	5.1	
1,591.00	Wolseley	302	+ 2	3.1	12.7	

BUSINESS SERVICES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
13.60	Aegis Ltd	1½				
14.30	Agb Hols	65				
3.85	Bailey (CH)	7	- ½			
10.40	Black Arrow	42	- 1	9.2	6.7	
2.90	Br Bloodstock	71			65.5	
3.15	Cafe Gp	5½	- ½	12.0		
1.79	Chester	4½		2.8	14.1	
16.10	Dcatl	140	+ 5	1.1	9.4	
61.00	Fadgs	270	+ 6	1.9	19.8	
4.51	Hadway	32	- 1	3.1	21.8	
66.40	Hunstock	279	+ 15	3.3	13.8	
67.80	Leigh	133	- 4	7.4	12.3	
22.30	Nobo Gp	143	- 71	5.4	9.3	
139.00	Photo-Mat†	229	+ 1½	2.6	22.2	
20.40	Plant & Gen	63	+ 7	3.5		
12.60	Redmn	8½	+ ½			
163.50	Skmbs & McEwan	88	- 2	4.9		
36.40	Sondes (Wm)	167	+ 5	5.4	12.4	
978.90	Wade Mgt Ind	251	+ 9		9.4	

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
688.50	Allied Colloids	130	+ 7	2.3	18.4	
30.60	Amber Ind	783		3.4	15.5	
2,403.60	BOC Gp	1128½	+25½	3.5		
3,491.80	BTR	723	+ 23	4.3	17.4	
410.50	BIP	257½	- 1½	5.3	14.6	
10,337.20	Bayer DM50	1419½	- 81½	3.8		
84.00	Bizgen	116	+ 7	1.6	54.3	
75.40	Brent Chemcl	111½	+ 4	4.7		
544.50	Br Vitaf	250	+ 6	3.9	16.7	
5.62	Cambridge Sci	43				
57.70	Canning (W)	203	+ 1	4.7		
1,841.70	Courtaulds	457	+ 20	4.1	31.2	
431.90	Croda	326	- 3	3.5	15.9	
17.80	Dualvest	168	+ 3½	3.9		
21.70	Earn Chem	82	+ 2½	2.6	23.7	
15.40	EnviroCh	114	- 3	6.8	10.6	
253.90	Fisons†	144	+ 10½	4.3		
7,100.70	Hoechst	£130½	+100½	4.0		
204.70	Holliday Chemcl	197		3.2	14.1	
5,543.10	ICI†	738	+ 14	4.7	32.9	
186.10	Ilchm	£139		4.1	13.5	
1,327.60	Laporte†	592	+ 15	4.0	15.0	
30.40	MBMy	82		2.3	14.5	
127.00	Mandrest	320	+ 10½	4.3	15.1	
11.10	Morgan†	48	+ 5	9.4	6.2	
21,216.30	Monsanto	398½	+ 2½	4.6	19.8	
40.70	Penwalt	314	- 1	1.9	21.6	
469.60	Scapa	210	+ 3	3.5	17.1	
10.20	Scholle Scnh	18		4.9	10.7	
6,532.40	Sidcup Chem	747	- 40	1.4	8.6	
81.50	Waddle Storeys	321	- 9	6.8	15.7	
44.10	Wallington (Hldg)	187	- 3	3.7		
54.80	Westbrke Rf	740		3.5		
104.30	Yates Chem†	337	+ 3	3.2	15.1	
251.30	Yule Catto	251	+ 2	3.3	19.1	

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
36.10	Alt Lasr	93		5.5	10.7	
33.00	Amin & Hyman	560	+ 5	3.8	6.9	
7.25	Alexanderst	18	+ 1½	6.9	8.7	
72.40	Applegarth	109	+ 9	6.7		
9.85	Ass Br Eng	9½		1.7	26.8	
144.60	BOC Gases	552	+ 4	4.1	19.5	
7.43	Bunzl Pmps	21		6.0	10.8	
1.26	Bagod "A"	36		3.4	11.0	
152.00	Bunzl	362	+ 9	4.7		
4.12	Bridgend Gp	13		1.7	70.0	
22.00	Bnd Fldings	95	- 1	5.4		
9.00	Brown & Dixon	39	- 1			
34.00	Bundene	33	- 1	7.3		
7.00	Calders	225		0.4	37.0	
9.45	Cawdor Mly	89	- 1	5.0	45.9	
15.40	Cook (DC)	36		4.0	11.9	
428.30	Comet	208	+ 18	4.3	11.4	
34.40	Dg Motors	142	+ 16	6.4		
28.00	Dawson: B	291		1.5	14.4	
246.00	Diploma	440	+ 7	3.8	15.4	
1,114.00	Electrocomps	530	- 3	2.4	21.7	
61.00	Electron Hsnc	163	+ 2	2.7	13.7	
198.70	Elec & General	238	+ 3	4.1	15.8	
53.60	European Mtr	100	+ 3	3.7	10.9	
117.00	Evans Halshaw	108	+ 2	5.1		
784.00	Farnell Elec	581	+ 12	1.7	23.0	
3.95	Fife Instrg'V	48	- 2	7.8		
23.60	Gaelliard	32	+ 2	4.5	10.1	
4.05	Glendimplex	18			17.7	
5.64	Gowings	62	- 6	4.8	10.8	
76.00	Hallas (Hldgs)	71	+ 3	1.8	13.5	
10.00	Harris (Hldgs)	167		5.1	14.6	
142.10	Hewden	258	+ 10½	3.6	13.8	
3.67	Holdens Tadnt	32	+ 7	8.2		
15.00	SA Ind	93	- 2	2.7		
1,607.30	Inchcape†	305	+ 10	6.1	11.9	
6.26	Jacks (Wm)	50			13.4	
247.50	Kwik-Fit	149½	+ ½	3.8		
321.20	Lex Service†	337	+ 7	5.2	17.9	
37.40	Lupevit	165	+ 1	3.6	9.2	
23.70	Massey Grp	14½	+ ½	3.5		
35.40	Maddocks ⊕	9½	- ½	1.8		
38.10	Nelson	347	- 30	8.8	13.8	
12.40	Nottingham	79	- 2	2.1	12.8	
13.40	PCT	152		6.1	14.7	
91.40	Pennington†	238	+ 11	4.3		
35.70	Pwr Up	141	+ 2	0.9		
31.10	Quality Dhsg	135	+ 6	5.7		
15.00	Reg'l	165	+ 3	4.5	34.1	
8.87	Rexon	2½				
7.01	Ross Gp	5	+ ½	9.5		
38.50	SBF Ind	67½		3.8	15.8	
14.10	TLS Range	39	- 2	4.9		
170.50	Time Products	227		4.8	15.3	
96.30	Vinty (Hldgs)	208	+ 30	3.1	15.5	
34.50	Wholesale Fdgt	243		6.6	21.7	
23.00	Wiles Grp†	13½		4.0	7.6	
56.50	Wolstan	67	- 1½	1.1	20.8	
34.60	WyleW	70	+ 2	1.8	25.3	
12.10	Young (H)	73		6.2	13.7	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
134.60	Adwest	164	+ 1	6.0	13.5	
450.50	Aggreko	388	- 12	2.9	34.5	
14,222.50	Bestwd Hldg	950	+ 50	5.7		
12,078.20	BTR†	322	+ 8	5.0	15.3	
13,970.50	BATI	453	+ 14	6.0	16.0	
348.30	Berisford Intl	231	- ½	0.3	61.1	
125.00	Bibby (J)	80	- 6	4.7	14.0	
1,202.30	Blackey Ayrt	46½	- 3	0.0	3.6	
699.30	Charterhl	816	+ 37	3.7	17.0	
1,504.00	CookcomV	322	+ 14	3.9	22.3	
12,217.70	Hanson	205	+ 4	0.4	14.7	
1,092.10	Hamsn Cntrld	155	- 4	2.5	18.9	
8,745.20	Hutch Whmp	369½	+ 1½	2.8		
3,711.60	Jardine Math	518½	- 33	3.3		
4.86	Jourdan (T)	37	- 1	4.6	26.8	
1,348.70	Lonrho	161½	+ 10	3.5	29.0	
77.00	McLeod Russel	129	+ 1	0.0	14.1	
39.60	Power Cbstrn	42	- 1			
420.80	Powell Duffryn	305	- 3½	6.2	14.2	
29.80	Raphael	123	+ ½	8.4	10.3	
997.50	Rothmans	801	+ 31	4.8	24.3	
33.40	Salvo	13½	- 1		5.2	
3,086.50	Sime Darby	148	- 1	3.0	18.8	
184.50	Standbrg	170	- 1	0.7	52.6	
188.20	Swire†	161	- 2	7.4		
373.40	TT Group	208	+ 4	2.9	14.5	
2,919.90	Tomkins†	347	+ 12	3.5	13.9	
587.20	Tomkins H	54½		0.0		
57.40	Unidare	235		6.0		
466.70	Vinccott†	357½		3.0		
71.70	Whitecroft	103		3.7	17.9	
13.00	Wolrey	9½		5.2	12.4	
1,982.50	Williams Hldg	343	+ 3	5.0	16.3	

ELECTRICITY

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
1,194.60	Eng Midlnd†	818	+ 18	4.5	28.0	
1,062.50	Scottish Sth	801	+ 32	5.1	13.2	
1,182.40	London Elec	993	+ 17	5.1	9.2	
748.50	Nthern†	558	+ 15	5.5	17.7	
1,200.00	Midlands Elec	834	+ 28	4.0	9.7	
1,147.20	Scottish Pwr	434	+ 6	4.4	11.9	
861.90	Northern Elec	773	+ 24	5.3	6.0	
958.50	Nthn Ireland	348	+ 18	4.3	9.4	
970.30	Welsh	831	+ 18	4.3	7.6	
3,378.50	PowerGen	488	+ 2	4.3	9.0	
1,200.00	Hydro-Elect	715	+ 4	5.2	10.0	
2,587.90	Scottish Power	329	+ 8	4.8	10.4	
352.00	Swalec	545	+ 4	4.5	8.9	
188.00	Sth Wales	656	+ 24	5.5	8.0	
714.40	Sth Western	643	+ 16	4.8	8.5	
1,002.50	Southern Elec	621	+ 38	4.8	8.0	
1,165.20	Yorkshire Elec	850	+ 44	5.6	11.1	

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
55.30	Acal	202		3.0	15.8	
78.30	Acorn Comp A	87	+ 1			
161.30	Admvdt	639	- 5	1.8	19.1	
6.87	Aerospace Grp	19½		3.7		
88.20	Allen	208		3.1	16.2	
215.30	Anglesey†	168	+ 10½	17		
35.30	Arlen	34	+ 3½			
274.60	Ashtrst	88	+ 2½	1.7		
32.90	Aztec	151	+ 35	2.5	12.2	
1,166.20	BICC	330	- 5	4.8	18.4	
24.40	Bailey Hunter	230	- 4	5.4	12.3	
141.20	Black	403		5.1	16.0	
153.30	Blackburn†	327	+ ½	3.1	17.0	
4.35	Bolger (AF) "A"	17½		1.8	10.2	
34.40	CML Micro	195		4.1	11.8	
10.40	Channel Hldgs	29	- 3	6.4	4.3	
48.70	Chloride	19½	- ½	1.8	53.9	
11.30	Clayhithe	61		8.5		
14.80	Copperpts	140		3.6		
308.80	Cray Elect	168	+ ½	1.9	19.8	
130.30	Cwmbran	488	+ 2	3.3	15.6	
770.00	Dares Rk Sys	484	+ 4	0.5	25.6	
720.70	Dellint	484	- 10	4.0	17.5	
138.90	Domnrd	553	+ 4	2.3	16.1	
98.40	Dowding Mntz	67	+ 1	4.8	21.7	
94.40	Dtack	147½	- 1½	6.2	28.1	
2,062.80	Electrolux "B"	2825	- 55½	3.8		
31.50	Emerson†	29½	- ½	0.4		
8,061.40	Ericsson "B"	469½	+38½	1.1		
21.20	Eurocomp	64		3.0	12.8	
323.30	Eurotherm†	418	- 1	1.6	21.8	
239.70	Fauvy Group	403	- 4	2.2		
110.40	Filtronic Com	203	+ 3	0.4	54.4	
22.00	Forward Gp	208	- 8	3.8	16.5	
20.70	Forward Tech	51	- 2	3.7	20.8	
8,410.40	GEC	308½	+ 10½	4.1	18.1	
227.20	Gestetner	115	+ 2	2.6		
92.90	Gresham†	144	+ 11	5.7		
47.90	Hall (Contrls)	130	- 1	5.2	10.7	
121.10	Harwood App	280	+ 8	4.8	14.3	
5.70	Hodge	60	- 4			
2.81	IPA Ind	29	- 1½	5.0	20.5	
84.30	MTL Intl	313	+ 6	1.9		
134.30	Marconi-Sel	373	+ 9	2.1	19.2	
23.60	Microvitec	32	- ½	1.6		
302.90	Mitel	287	- 18			
3.06	Pace Systems	63	- 3			
100.40	Pye	54		5.7	15.1	
7,054.40	Philips Lnp nv	2007½	- 19½	2.4		
28.10	Pilkgt	203		2.0	16.7	
18.80	Pitco "A" Vtgt	273		2.1	17.4	
8.00	Plasmec	128	- 2	4.6	12.1	
45.90	Precis	124	+ 11	2.8	19.3	
10.00	Prestwich	30	+ 1			
62.30	Pulsar†	271	+ 6	1.5		
80.10	Racal Elec†	247	+ 12	2.3	20.3	
30.60	Radiomic	56	+ 1	4.8	12.1	
129.60	Radiotrnt	334	+ 1	3.8		
5.52	Scantronic	10½				
26.90	Silverstone	42	- 2	3.0	24.3	
9.66	Soundtracks†	56		8.6	12.8	
75.30	Spin Bus	78	+ 1	0.9	5.1	
1.90	TDS	9				
1,744.00	TDK	2849½	+ 9½	1.3		
55.20	Tadpole Tech	210	+ 1			
61.30	Telemetrix†	87	+ 3	2.2		
18.10	TCI	88		3.2	16.6	
136.20	Telspec†	436	+ 20½	5.1	10.3	
39.70	Thorpe Fir	238	+ 3	1.8	15.9	
256.40	TTG	144		3.0	20.7	
2.83	Total Systems	28			29.1	
78.30	Tracsis†	238		2.0	16.0	
258.40	Unilech	375	- 3	2.3	18.9	
19.00	Vewy	27		0.8	22.8	
98.30	Volex	371	- 3	6.2	15.5	
13.60	Watebouse	62	- 1			
36.40	Wilcomo	123			23	

ENGINEERING

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Wkly %	Yld %	P/E
26.30	AAH	192		3.0	15.8	
309.90	APV	87	+ 1			

TODAY

Interims: James Halstead. **Finals:** Alpha Airports, Amey, Bilton, BLP Group, Britannia Group, British Dredging, James Crean, Dinkie Heel, Eurotunnel, Greenalls Group, Moss Bros, Olives Property, Severfield-Reeve. **Economic statistics:** Producer price index numbers (March), UK economic accounts (Q4).

TOMORROW

Interims: Villiers Group. **Finals:** Automotive Products, Bodycote Intl, Cobham, Dewhirst Group, Friendly Hotels, HCG Lloyd's Inv Trust, Henderson Highland Trust, New Ireland Hldgs, Savoy Hotel, Shorco Group Holdings, Tarmac, Tesco, Tie Rack, Yule Catto. **Economic statistics:** CBI survey of distributive trades (March), construction — new orders (February).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: AG Holdings, A Beckman, Eurovein, Smiths Industries. **Finals:** Alexandra Workwear, Bloomsbury Publishing, Chelsfield, Forte, Goldsmiths Group, S Jerome & Sons, Martin Intl Holdings, New City & Commercial, Nurdin & Peacock, Tudor, RMC Group. **Economic statistics:** Labour market: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (March — provisional); average earnings indices (February — provisional); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes, labour force survey, index of production and construction for Wales (Q4), farm rents in Wales (1994).

THURSDAY

Interims: Cradley Group. **Finals:** Laura Ashley, Chepstow Racecourse, Hunting. **Economic statistics:** Machine tools (February), visible trade (January), capital issues and redemptions (March), RPI (March).

The Sunday Times: Buy Greycoat, Barclays, Weir Group, Johnson Matthey. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy Hemleys, Precoat, Radius. *The Independent on Sunday*: Buy Celltech, BPP, Boots. Sell Redland. *The Observer*: Buy Standard Chartered, Brammer.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Eurotunnel's results start rolling

EUROTUNNEL: Long-suffering shareholders of Eurotunnel will be hoping for signs of light when the Channel tunnel operator unveils its first set of results since much-delayed services started late last year.

The group has already forecast a £382 million pre-tax loss for 1994, but analysts will want to hear what it says on prospects and performance. Results for 1994, due later today, are largely meaningless in themselves, but they will include the heavily indebted group's first-ever revenue figures for part of the year.

Mark McVicar, at NatWest Securities, says the market is more interested in an update on Eurotunnel's service build-up, with services steadily rising to a peak by mid-summer. News is also awaited on the latest freight and car numbers, as well as any news on when coaches will be carried.

Interest will centre on current trading, future bookings and projections of Eurotunnel's market share, as well as the likely effects of intensifying competition from the cross-Channel ferry operators.

Analysts also await news on discussions with the banks on the continued requirement for new funding, as well as any estimates that Eurotunnel may provide on what it expects 1995 and 1996 revenues to be like.

ALPHA AIRPORTS: The in-flight catering group, which was spun off from Forte last year, will show the benefits of international expansion today when it unveils its first set of annual results since flotation. Analysts expect a strong improvement in charter traffic to help maiden pre-tax profits climb to between £21 million and £22.7 million (£19.2 million). A dividend of 4.6p is predicted.

TARMAC: The construction giant, which is headed by Neville Simms, should announce a near-doubling of earnings tomorrow as the housing recovery sets in, though brokers are less certain about the outlook for future profits growth. Tarmac, one of the UK's biggest housebuilders, should have seen housing improve by about 12-15 per cent in spite of the company having sold fewer units. However, the UK housing market remains under pressure, with much slower growth predicted for the current year. The road market is also set to decline sharply in 1996, while the American housing market is near to its peak levels.

Tarmac's UK quarry products division and the building materials business are expected to have achieved profit growth of over 100 per cent, with higher volumes and increased prices allowing a surge in profitability. The performance in America was also impressive last year, though poor weather will have held back first-quarter profits.

The team at BZW is looking for Tarmac's final pre-tax profits to advance to £105 million, compared with a provision-driven loss of £43.1 million last time. Market forecasts range from £100 million to £106 million. A maintained dividend of 5.5p is widely anticipated.

TESCO: Tomorrow's full-year figures will provide a clearer picture of how it and other food retailers are coping with the current supermarket price war. Tesco, which recently introduced a loyalty Clubcard to help boost revenues, has been doing well compared with most of its competitors. In January, it said that like-for-like sales for the 20 weeks to December 31 were up 3.8 per cent, while December trade rose 7 per cent.

Final pre-tax profits are expected to rise to £590 million (£528.4 million), according to UBS. Market forecasts range from £580 million to £600 million. A dividend of 8.6p (7.75p) is predicted.

Analysts await news on how Wm Low is performing since it was acquired for £247 million last September, adding around 57 stores.

RMC GROUP: The German construction boom and improvements in the UK market will form the foundations of another strong set of figures from the building materials group when it reports full-year results on Wednesday.

The massive construction programme going on in Germany, particularly the east, will again spell a dramatic leap in fortunes for RMC, as the group relies on overseas activities for more than half its business.

NatWest Securities expects final pre-tax profits to advance to £270 million (£178 million). Market forecasts range from £250 million to £275 million. A dividend of 22p (20.5p) is predicted.

FORTE: A strong recovery in the UK hotel market, driven by London and the South East, should help Forte, the hotels and restaurant giant, to a healthy rise in full-year profits when it reports on Wednesday.

However, analysts caution that, excluding London, room rates have remained under pressure and, given the dynamics of the provincial market, this is very unlikely to alter in the near future. Pre-tax profits for the year to January 31 are forecast to rise to £128 million (£77 million), according to Kleinwort Benson, including an operating profit contribution from its 68 per cent stake in Savoy Hotel of £4 million. A dividend of 8p (7.5p) is predicted.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: Analysts expect a healthy contribution from acquisitions to help Smiths lift first-half pre-tax profits, due on Wednesday, to between £50 million and £55 million, compared with £46 million last time. An interim dividend of 5-5.1p (4.7p) is predicted. The rise in profits will be fuelled by £6 million contribution from the Tutco and Deltec acquisitions. Aerospace is expected to be flat, but medical and industrial divisions are doing well.

The housing market haunts Tarmac's Neville Simms, but there should be better earnings news

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

No cause for alarm

SHORT of a huge last-minute surprise, the City assumes that last week's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England on interest rates decided to leave well alone.

This week, a broad range of domestic monthly economic indicators will renew the debate on the strength of recovery. Is growth tailing off or is the economy now settling down with sustainable progress and low inflation?

New figures on producer prices to be published this morning are expected to show further price rises, but nothing too alarming. The CBI's distributive trades survey, due to be published on Tuesday morning, will give a new indication of high street activity, which is likely to remain mixed and, in some sectors, subdued. The City expects that retail price figures on Thursday will show little change in the annual inflation rate.

According to MMS International, the median City forecast suggests a 0.3 per cent rise in the output measure of the producer price index in March, raising the 12-month inflation rate from 3.6 to 3.7 per cent, though MMS itself sees a slightly faster rise to 3.8 per cent.

Input prices, which have so far been absorbed well by manufacturers, have been rising much faster, but the pace is now abating. A median 0.5 per cent rise is forecast for March, leaving the year-on-year increase at 11.4 per cent, though forecasts range from 10.6 per cent right up to to 11.9 per cent. The weakness of the dollar, partly followed by sterling, has been reflected in dollar commodity prices.

On Thursday, the various retail prices indexes now issued are not expected to show much acceleration in inflation at the level of the consumer. Unadjusted retail prices are projected to have risen by 0.3 per cent in March, although forecasts range up to 0.6 per cent.

On the median of City forecasts, headline inflation would stay at 3.4 per cent, though some projections range up to 3.7 per cent. RPIY, the measure favoured by the Bank of England for monetary policy, is expected to stay at 1.8 per cent.

Given these preoccupations, attention on Wednesday is likely to focus on average earnings. The headline annual rise was 3.5 per cent for January, but some feel this to be an underestimate and the February figures might edge up. March unemployment, issued on the same day, is expected to fall a further 30,000.

Also on Thursday the global trade figures for January are due. Market forecasts suggest that the £1.6 billion December deficit will be halved.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

LE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Ms J Johnson
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Mayfair
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Departmental Secretary

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Good telephone manner, communication skills and previous experience essential. Smart person with good educational background, diplomacy and ability to deal with people effectively.

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Tavistock Square,
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BMA

Closing date: 20 April 1995

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Property company based in Fulham requires a bright & enthusiastic Rec/Typist. Previous experience in a property environment is a pre requisite. You should also have experience of Microsoft Office, W4W & preferably Rental Express.

Previous applicants and Receptionists earning less than £15 K need not apply.

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Stibbe Simont Monahan Duhot
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London EC2V 7NH
Fax: 0171 600 4411

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Sales Assistant
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*We offer 'free in credit' banking for the first year to new businesses opening their first account with us (unless your account turnover exceeds £100,000 or you make an exceptional number of transactions, or an overdraft limit is agreed).

Risks and opportunities in EMU high-wire act

Delays to the introduction of a European single currency could be politically divisive, says **Wolfgang Münchau**

ONE of the most exasperating features of the European Union is the tendency for ministers to take important decisions in the middle of a lunch or dinner. The meeting of EU Economics and Finance Ministers in Versailles was such an occasion. The meeting was supposed to be informal, but ministers still reached a "broad consensus" to prolong the so-called "interim" phase of European monetary union. This phase, at the end of stage two of EMU, marks the time-lag between the political decision by European heads of state as to which countries will be allowed to join, and the date when EU currencies will be irrevocably locked in.

The Maastricht treaty stipulated six months for this interim period, which would give the new European Central Bank time to get up and running. After that, there will be another delay, of up to four years, until the new European banknotes actually find their way into the Euro-citizen's pocket. We are now writing about the year 2003 or 2004.

Led by the Germans, the ministers concluded that six months would be insufficient for operational reasons. After all, it takes considerable time to set up a prestigious central bank, complete with dealing rooms and marble-clad presidential suites.

This new "consensus" has several important consequences for EMU. January 1, 1999, is the latest possible starting date for stage three. Thanks to the Maastricht treaty, it cannot be moved. A decision to prolong the interim period therefore inevitably means that the political decision for EMU will have to be taken earlier than envisaged, in this case, no later than December 1997. This means that even if the EU was to delay EMU for as long as legally possible, a political decision will still need to be taken in a little over two years. It also means that Britain would have to decide in late 1997 whether to invoke the opt-out, either by parliamentary vote or by referendum.

Secondly, the earlier the political decision is taken, the fewer countries will qualify. Little wonder that the Germans are particularly keen on this idea. And once the political decision is made, the balance of political power will suddenly shift to the European Central Bank. Among the first items the bank will have on its agenda is the look and design of the new banknotes. It will decide whether it will be possible for Britain, if it joined, to retain the Queen's head on ecu banknotes, whether to shrink it, or whether to replace it.

The most important implication of a long interim period is the speculative opportunities it opens up for the currency markets. Both Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, and Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, expressed concern about exchange-rate stability in that period. What, for example, would happen if the foreign exchange markets, ahead of the 1999 deadline, took a last destabilising whack at the exchange-rate mechanism? Would EMU still be possible if one or two currencies had to be devalued against the mark? Would not German public opinion revolt over the single currency under such circumstances, especially less than a year before federal elections?

This danger also carries a political opportunity. The pending market uncertainty will serve as an ingenious excuse for the Germans to restrict EMU to a small core of countries around Germany, the currencies of which are least prone to such speculative attacks. This group would include the Dutch, the Austrians, the French (possibly) and — opt-out permitting — the British.

In effect, the longer the interim period is to last, the stronger is the argument that a large-scale monetary union is not only undesirable, but also impossible. But the smaller the number of countries allowed to take part, the more politically divisive EMU is bound to be, especially if it is restricted to northern member states. Whatever happens, EMU will be a high-wire act with unprecedented risks and opportunities.

More jobs to go in financial services

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE number of financial services jobs is falling again — and is set to fall further, according to new figures today which suggest a mixed picture of confidence across the sector as overall business volumes rise at a lower than expected rate.

The latest figures from the Confederation of British Industry/Coopers & Lybrand quarterly financial services survey suggest a softening of the improvement in the sector.

Business economists expect unemployment in the economy as a whole to fall again by up to 30,000 in new figures on Wednesday. But the latest figures from the financial services survey suggest mixed results from a key economic area.

While business confidence overall in the sector strengthened for the tenth successive quarter, the improvement in optimism has slipped a little, from a balance in December of 36 per cent of firms — those saying they are more optimistic against those saying they are less so — to 28 per cent now.

Within that, though, the picture is still more mixed, with banks and venture capitalists reporting increased optimism, and building societies, fund managers, insurers and finance houses reporting the largest declines in confidence.

In the wake of continuing large-scale job losses announced by some leading banks — Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, last week forecast a further fall of 75,000 banking jobs in the next few years — the survey shows that employment in the financial services sector was lower over the past three months for the first time since March last year.

Only 2 per cent on balance of the 261 companies surveyed in the sector believe that jobs are still rising — down markedly from 11 per cent in the last survey. Looking ahead over the next three months, a balance of 17 per cent of companies believe that employment will fall.

Life insurers and insurance brokers are the least optimistic about job prospects over the next three months.

Business volumes rose by less than expected in the first three months of this year, the survey shows. While companies in the sector are forecasting a strong pick-up in business over the next quarter, CBI analysts pointed out that expectations have run ahead of results in the survey over the past two years.

Business with financial institutions fell over the period, and is predicted to fall again during the next three months, though transactions with private individuals rose. Overall profitability rose for the thirteenth successive quarter.

All bets are on for John Trewhitt, left, David Gilthorpe and Nick Trewhitt of Gus Carter

Gus Carter ready for the off to a listing

By Colin Campbell

GUS CARTER, the North East of England betting office chain, which on Saturday took £330,000 in bets on the Grand National, today declares the "off" for a private share placing that is expected to raise £3.5 million gross.

The off-course betting chain, which by turnover is one of the ten largest betting groups in Britain, operates 72 betting offices, of which 23 are owned and 49 are leased. It employs 450 people, of whom 332 are part-time.

The board hopes that a Stock Exchange listing will help further its ambition to expand by acquisition, increasing the number of outlets to at least 150.

The placing price of the shares will be announced on May 2, and first-time dealings are expected on May 9. The placing will put at least one third of the company's equity into public hands. Gus Carter aims for a progressive dividend policy, with a maiden dividend for the current year, ending December 31.

The Trewhitt family has been associated with Gus Carter since 1958. John Trewhitt, managing director, and his brother Nick Trewhitt, development director, assumed control of the firm from their father in 1985.

Since 1992, Gus Carter's turnover and operating profit have shown compound growth of 9 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively. In the year to end-December, turnover was £43.6 million (£40.8 million), on which an operating profit of £1.52 million (£1.08 million) was achieved.

Net earnings in 1994 were 6.3p (3.2p) a share. Net assets at December 31, 1994, totalled £10.1 million, and net cash inflow from operating activities in 1994 was £1.9 million.

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive of Cowie Group, will be the company's non-executive chairman. Other board members are Nick Trewhitt, David Gilthorpe, finance, and Alan Mordain, chairman of Quality Software Product Holdings, who will be non-executive.

John Trewhitt says there are several developments in off-course betting from which Gus Carter should benefit.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

IMF predicts rising inflation in Italy

THE International Monetary Fund has drawn up a harsh report on Italy, predicting rising inflation because of the lira's decline, and urging rapid progress to sort out public finances, Italian sources say. Speaking at a weekend meeting of European Union Finance Ministers in France, Lamberto Dini, Italy's Prime Minister, who also holds the finance portfolio, said he thought the IMF was pessimistic. "It seems to me a bit of a severe analysis. Inflationary impact of the budget should be absorbed in the space of a few months."

The IMF document says Italian authorities must not take for granted the willingness of savers to continue to support the national debt by buying government bonds. Milan's *Corriere della Sera* quoted the IMF document as saying: "Positive macroeconomic developments have been obscured by the hovering threat of a crisis of confidence demonstrated by the nervousness of the financial markets." A strong rise in prices would threaten the wage discipline which in 1993 and 1994 had been important in containing inflation, said the IMF. Italy's recent 20,000 billion lire mini-budget must be followed by further measures to deal with long-term costs, it said.

Unilever lifts board pay

SIR MICHAEL PERRY, chairman of Unilever, received a pay increase of 23 per cent in 1994, a year in which the Anglo-Dutch food and soaps group increased its net profit before exceptional items by 2 per cent to £1,571 million. Unilever's 1994 annual accounts disclose that the chairman's salary and benefits increased from £599,220 in 1993 to £686,890 in 1994. In addition, performance-related payments rose from £63,600 to £132,060 last year. Contributions to the chairman's pension also increased, up from £28,000 to £36,000. The total cost of the Unilever board, excluding pensions, rose last year by 22 per cent to £8.2 million. Meanwhile, the chairman and chief executive of John Lewis, the department stores group, is forgoing a chunk of his salary. Stuart Hampson is only accepting £274,000 out of his entitlement of £483,000. The 34,000 full-time staff of the group have just received bonuses amounting to 12 per cent of salary.

US contract for BNF

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels has teamed up with Morrison Knudsen, the troubled American engineering firm, to win a five-year, environmental clean-up subcontract worth up to $1 billion. The US Department of Energy awarded an overall management contract for its Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site in Colorado to Kaiser-Hill, which in turn sub-contracted Rocky Mountain Remediation Services. RMRS was created by Morrison Knudsen and BNF just to bid for the lucrative sub-contract. A Morrison Knudsen spokesman said yesterday the project would make use of BNF's waste management technology and Morrison Knudsen's environment restoration skill.

Equities find favour

FUND managers are taking a more bullish view of the equity market. More institutions are planning to increase the weighting of their portfolios towards shares and away from bonds and property, says a survey conducted this month by Gallup for Smith New Court, the broker. A growing number of institutions favour equities, with the percentage planning to increase weighting rising from 21 per cent in February to 28 per cent in April. But European equities are out of favour, while disenchantment with US shares continues. Interest in Japanese equities is steady with 22 per cent planning to raise allocations. Funds are less keen on gilts with only 2 per cent planning to increase, while property remains out of favour.

Mercedes set for record

MERCEDES-BENZ, the German vehicle group, is forecast to announce a record profit of more than DM1.8 billion for 1994 today (up from DM340 million), allowing the combined Daimler-Benz group, Germany's biggest industrial undertaking, to show a profit of just over DM1 billion for the year. Two other major parts of the group are thought to have made heavy losses. AEG, the electrical engineering subsidiary, is forecast in Germany to show a DM400 million loss and Dasa, the aerospace business, an even larger deficit. AEG has agreed to merge its loss-making railway business with ABB's larger operation, but further restructuring of AEG's rambling operations is expected.

Merck funding plan

OWNERS of E Merck, the hitherto private German drugs and chemical group, are to go ahead with plans to raise up to DM2.5 billion by issuing shares internationally through a new subsidiary in the autumn. The flotation, one of Germany's biggest, calls for Merck to form a unit called Merck KGaA. E Merck will contribute most of its capital to the new unit and own around 75 per cent of the subsidiary, but will continue to exist as a company. The 25 per cent of Merck KGaA shares not held by Merck itself will be placed internationally by banking consortia in autumn 1995. Shareholders will get dividends based on profits from both companies, which will be linked.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.28	2.11
Austria Sch	16.55	15.05
Belgium Fr	48.40	44.10
Canada $	2.340	2.180
Cyprus CypE	0.745	0.690
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.41	6.76
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.36	2.15
Greece Dr	377.00	352.00
Hong Kong $	13.07	12.07
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2486	4.4966
Italy Lira	2945.00	2690.00
Japan Yen	149.50	133.50
Malta	0.597	7.542
Netherlds Gld	2.626	2.396
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.36
Spain Pta	208.00	195.00
Sweden Kr	12.46	11.66
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	refer	65074.0
USA $	1.704	1.574

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6065 (-0.0215)
German mark
2.2189 (-0.0082)
Exchange index
84.3 (-1.0)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2454.1 (+46.7)
FT-SE 100
3210.9 (+73.0)
New York Dow Jones
4192.62 (+34.93)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
15719.50 (-420.45)

Low oil prices force coal plant closure

By Carl Mortished

LOW oil prices are bringing to an end British Coal's ten-year project to generate petrol from coal. The £44 million coal liquefaction plant at Point of Ayr in North Wales is to shut down in June and, unless another owner is found, the plant will be demolished.

The pilot project received funding from British Coal and the UK Government as well as the European Commission, Ruhrkohle, Amoco and Exxon.

The Commission, which has spent £14.4 million on the pilot plant, recently approved extra support of £1.2 million for further demonstrations of the technology, which uses a liquid solvent extraction process to produce high-grade gasoline and diesel fuel from coal. A tonne of coal can produce 120 to 150 gallons of fuel.

In spite of its success, there is no immediate prospect of larger-scale plants being built due to the low cost of crude oil. For liquefaction to be a commercially viable source of gasoline, crude oil prices would have to be $30 to $35 per barrel, compared with current prices of $17 to $18. A gallon of petrol made from coal costs 70p to 80p, compared with 40p from crude oil.

"World oil prices are now considerably lower than they were when the liquefaction project was started ten years ago," said Steve Dawes, director of British Coal's Technology Development Division.

Electricity retail profits set to fall

THE profitability of the electrical retailing market is set to fall in the coming year, according to a new study by Verdict, the retail research firm (Susan Gilchrist writes).

Verdict believes continued price competition and pressure on extended warranty profits will force further rationalisation within the sector, plagued by overcapacity. The extended warranty business has been hit by the publication of the OFT report, which heavily criticised the way they were sold.

It expects to see Regional Electricity Companies such as Seeboard and Northern pull out of the market in the near future and believes Powerhouse, the joint venture between Eastern, Southern and Midlands, may also be sold.

AAH prepares to publish final defence to Gehe bid

By Sarah Bagnall

THIS week is crunch week in the takeover battle for AAH, the UK's largest pharmaceutical wholesaler and retailer.

AAH will tomorrow unveil its final defence salvo aimed at persuading City investors that a 420p-a-share offer by Gehe, the German drugs wholesaler, is inadequate.

In a key defence document, AAH will reveal that it expects substantial benefits from its extensive rationalisation to feed through in results for the year to March 31, 1996.

The group, whose chairman is John Padovan, has nearly completed a four-year reorganisation aimed at focusing the group on its core activities. To date, none of the benefits has shown in profits, nor have the eventual cost savings been quantified.

Padovan: core activities

The defence document is expected to provide details on the savings, which could be significant. The UK company is also likely to announce the sale of a couple of small non-core businesses as well as give an indication of how things are progressing on the intended sale of the environmental services operations.

The City is standing firm in its belief that Gehe will raise its current cash offer, which values AAH at £377 million. AAH's shares closed on Friday at 437p — a premium of 17p on the current bid.

Under the offer timetable, Gehe has until next Tuesday to respond, but analysts are predicting that any higher offer would be made before the start of the Easter break. This is because many City workers are not expected back at their desks until the start of the following week.

WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 32

MACARONIC

(c) We all know A. D. Godley's schoolboy verse, "What is this that roareth thus?/ Can it be a motor bus?/ Yes, the smell and hideous hum/ Indicat motorem bum..." The proper name for this type of poem is macaronic, that is, a poem of a burlesque nature in which a modern vernacular language is mixed in with Latin words or inflexions. Derivation from *macaroon* a sweet biscuit with almond flavour, and *macaronic* a buffoon or crazy mixed-up kid.

AUTOCHTHON

(a) An aboriginal inhabitant, such as a Maori or, for want of any provable living Beaker person, a Celt in Britain. A grand synonym for aboriginal. There is no such word as *aborigine*, though we are working at it. But *aborigines* is an acceptable plural for *aboriginal*. "There is no need to be so haughty, Therese. I know that you have been the prima donna of the supermarket for ages, but even you cannot claim to be a Safewaycautochthon."

HALITUS

(c) Exhalation or breath, from the Latin word. Do not confuse this word with halitosis or bad breath. "Your halitus is coming on a bit strong this morning, Vicar. You haven't been out jogging again, have you?"

UNASINOUS

(b) Being equally stupid. "What a beautiful and encouraging wedding service. So rare to see a couple so suited — so well-matched, so good-looking, so unasinous in every respect."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxa6! and if 1 ... Rxa6 2 Qb8+ mates, while 1 ... bxa6 2 Qxc6+ is hopeless. Black tried 1 ... Rd5 but after 2 Qe5 Rxd1+ 3 Rxd1 White won easily with his two extra pawns.

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Keep the lights burning in Walmington-on-Sea

One vital decision came out of the vaunted Berlin conference on global warming. The gathering's German hosts succeeded in their most vital aim: to place the permanent headquarters of the UN climate convention in Bonn, the charming but fast-emptying former West German capital. Judging from the pompous posturing and dad's army bickering that marked the 11 days, the secretariat might better be billeted at Walmington-on-Sea under the stewardship of the fabled Captain Mainwaring.

Outwardly, at least, the superior cynics were proved right. For all the rhetoric beforehand that "something must be done", it turned out that countries claimed to be responsible for the climate taking a nasty turn, or who might become responsible, were not prepared to commit themselves to doing anything definite about it on any fixed timetable.

This scarcely matters if global warming and allied ills are passing scares. Dynamic inaction might be the best response. Even if adverse long-term changes were merely probable, there might be a case for waiting until any perils were imminent enough to spur action. That is the approach of *The Economist*, one of the most superior cynics. "Patience should be the watchword", it argued. "There is still time to bask in the sun".

Watching the daffodils emerge in London's St James's Park after a long dank winter, the prospect of a little more warmth behind the spring sunshine hardly seems a threat. That was not, however, the view of governments represented in Berlin, except a few oil-producers. Rather, they thought the issue serious, but failed to grapple with it.

This distinction is important for business. There will be continuous pressure for action to cut carbon dioxide emissions, even if none ensues. And British industry will lose yet again if it follows the superior cynics and lets others gain commercial advantage.

The Berlin conference had two purposes. It was to review progress on the Rio declarations to bring emissions back to 1990 levels by the end of the century — most of the limited progress was thanks to recession — and it aimed to prepare for yet another conference in Japan in 1997, when countries would supposedly commit themselves to real cuts on a timetable at the start of the next century. It showed, instead, that the process was likely to become bogged down in much the same way as the Gatt negotiations. The issue looks like deteriorating into one of those North-South battles that are becoming routine in the post-Cold War world. The impasse at the

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Madrid IMF meeting was an augury of things to come.

This North-South battle depends on a basic assumption. Both sides seem to see a direct conflict between economic growth and competitiveness and cutting carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels in power stations, vehicles, steel and cement works *et al*. Developing countries therefore argue that the burden of cuts should be borne by the industrial world, which burns most of the fuel, so that they should not be prevented from escaping from poverty. Some advanced countries have turned this round. They want to pay developing countries to plant forests, which absorb the carbon dioxide, and count that as a cut in their own emissions. This bright idea is like counting privatisation proceeds as negative public spending. It did not sound well in haughtier parts of South America.

Developing countries are crucial because their use of fossil fuels is growing so fast. A new study by DRI International Energy Consulting suggests that primary energy demand in China will rise from about 750 million tonnes of oil equivalent in 1993 to between 1,800 and 1,950 million tonnes in the next 20 years — a rise of about 150 per cent. DRI projects that coal will continue to supply about two-thirds of this.

Britain used about 220 million tonnes in 1993, so a minor reduction would not make much difference. The industrial countries of Western Europe as a whole consumed about 1,400 million tonnes in 1993. Even a 20 per cent cut over the next 20 years in energy use (admittedly not a straight proxy for emissions) would account only for about a quarter of the rise in China alone.

There is every reason to think, therefore, that international agreements will not bring self-restraint in energy use. Industrial countries are unlikely to cut enough fossil fuel use at their own economic expense sufficiently to outdo the rise in use by developing countries. Nor could they compensate emerging nations enough to join in.

Pressure and progress are therefore likely to shift in another direction: to removing the perceived economic penalties of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. That will operate through market forces and innovation backed by regulations in industrial countries and sales and transfers of technology to poorer countries. Essentially, the drive will be to produce power in other ways, principally solar and nuclear, and to increase the fuel efficiency of everything from power stations and motor cars to domestic appliances.

The choice of Bonn, in the flood-conscious Rhine valley, is important for business. Germany, and therefore the European Union, will be in the van, pressing for change and rewarding firms that can deliver it.

The UK could make a useful start if it managed to co-ordinate policy a bit better. Regional electricity companies are under pressure from politicians and regulators to transfer their cash surpluses to customers. That is a dubious exercise, not least legally. Better to use windfall money to save energy than to cut bills. Don't quibble. Subsidise, or give away, low-energy light fittings and bulbs, whose initial expense is far too high for average families to convert all their fittings.

Saints come marching in

Monday Play: Veronica's Handkerchief. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*

Sarah Woods's fantasy poses the question: how can religious faith best survive in a materialistic world? I guarantee you will not hear a stranger play during the run-up to Easter. I list some of its components: Saints Matthew, John the Evangelist, and Veronica return to earth to help/hinder a housewife (Elizabeth Estensen) who desperately needs some spiritual topping-up. St John tosses pancakes and gets sozzled; St Matthew plays a mortal combat game on a personal computer; St Veronica says she will give up Christianity for Lent. The wife strips to the buff in the pulpit, and a second Great Flood threatens. I only wish I could offer you a more helpful summary of *Veronica's Handkerchief*'s quirky plot.

Telling Stories: Gewürztraminer. *Radio 3, 9.50pm.*

Every year at about this time, something pleasant happens for anybody with a ravenous appetite for the short story. The BBC publishes an anthology of tales by emerging and established writers. We hear four of them on Radio 3 this week, beginning tonight with Nicholas le Prevost's reading of a comical story of an unprementioned settling of scores. Gewürztraminer is a racehorse. It is also the private expletive a journalist uses whenever he recalls how a colleague did him out of a big win in the Derby. Revenge does not come any sweeter than when the writer and his family spend a fortnight in a Tuscan farmhouse owned by said colleague.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa Tarson 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq 9.00 Phil Jupitus 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, including at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Bob Holness with Dance Band Days, and at 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Up in Lights: Adrian Edwards talks to Bob Monkhouse (r) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, including 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine 11.00 Going Bananas 12.00 Midday with Mark Incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Rascoe on Fire 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 sport 7.35 Wembley Winners: Leeds United v Sunderland in 1973 8.00 The Monday Match: Wimbledon v Chelsea 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Samantha Meek, Sean Bolger 10.00 Scott Chisholm/Dwayne Fiona Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Maurice Dee, David McGillen 10.00 Classic 1.00am Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. 5.00am News 5.30 Europe (MW only: Off the Shelf 5.45 Did You Know?) 6.00 News 6.20 Anything Goes (MW only: Europe) 7.00 News 7.15 Fate 7.30 United Nations 8.00 News 8.15 Development '95 8.30 A Slip of the Tongue 9.00 News (MW only: News in German) 9.10 Words of Faith (MW only: News in German) 9.15 Isle of Tears 10.00 News and Business 10.15 Anything Goes 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf Noon News 12.30am Omnibus 1.00 News (MW only: News in German) 1.15 Britain 1.30 Music 2.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 John Peel 4.00 News 4.05 Sport 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Global Concerns (MW: News in German) 4.45 Gospel (MW only: News in German) 5.00 News 5.15 Isle of Tears 6.00 News and Business 6.15 Taltala Tunes 6.30 World Today (MW: News in German) 6.45 Sport (MW: News in German) 7.00 News 7.30 Omnibus 8.00 News 8.00 Europe 9.30 Outlook 9.55 Words of Faith 10.00 News and Business 10.15 Britain 10.30 Multitrack 11.00 News 11.30 World Today 11.45 Development Midnight News 12.05am Report 12.15 John Dunn 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 1.30 Folk 1.45 Britain 2.00 News 2.15 Beethoven 2.45 Health 3.00 News 3.30 Let's Do The Show Right Here 4.00 News 4.15 Sport 4.30 John Peel

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Joan Thirkettle 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Classic Reports 7.00 A to Z of Classical Music 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ n' Jono's 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nick Abbot 7.30 Paul Coyle 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Culture and Belief in Europe — Grand 6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air: Dubnik (Romance in F minor, Op 11); Poulenc (Timor et tremor, Quatre motets pour un temps de pénitence); Mozart (Divertimento in B flat, K186); 8.05 Bach (Kommt, ihr Töchter, St Matthew Passion); Chopin (Etudes, Op 10 Nos 1-4); 8.30 Quartet Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 77 No 1)
9.00 Composers of the Week: William Byrd and Thomas Tallis (r)
10.00 Musical Encounters: Mozart (Overture, Die Entführung aus dem Serail); 10.05 Artist of the Week: Christian Lindberg, trombone. Weber (Romance); 10.15 Sibelius (Lemminkäinen and the Maidens of Saari); Bach (Cantata No 126, Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 26); 11.10 Ives (The Circus Band); Gordon Jacob (Trombone Concerto); Tchaikovsky (Fantasy Overture, Romeo and Juliet)
12.00 In Repertory: Josephine Barstow talks to Rodney Milnes (r)
1.00pm News; BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Rolf Hind, piano. Janáček (In the Mist); Simon Holt (Nigredo); James Dillon (Spleen); Messiaen (Canteyodjaya)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Takuo Yuasa with Stephen Cleobury, organ. Mozart (Overture, Don Giovanni); Haydn (Organ Concerto in C, H XVIII, 1); Bruckner (Symphony No 4 in E flat)
3.45 Byrd Organ Music: Paul Nicholson plays organ music by Byrd on the 1853 instrument built by the Dallam family in Lanwellec, Brittany (r)
4.30 Time and Changes: Sian Tracey talks to Geoffrey Smith about the late 1970s, his octet and his son, Clark Terry (6/8)
5.00 The Music Machine: Mike Edwards looks at the changing role of computers in music
5.15 In Tune: Andrew Green presents arts news and interviews and plays a selection of music including Debussy (Fêtes, Nocturnes); 6.03 Chopin (Mazurka in D, Op 33 No 2); Mendelssohn (Piano Trio in C minor, Op 66)
7.30 Life with an Idiot, live from the Coliseum in London: The English National Opera Chorus and Orchestra under Richard Armstrong perform Alfred Schnittke's opera; 8.30 Victor Yerofeyev talks to Professor Anthony Briggs; 8.50 Act 2
9.50 Telling Stories: Gewurztraminer. See Choice
10.15 Schubert: String Trio in B flat, D471 (Grumiaux Trio); Piano Trio in B flat, D28 (Beaux Arts Trio)
10.35 Passion Carols: Meurig Bowen introduces the first of five programmes for Passion Week in which the Hilliard Ensemble performs carols from the Feyrfax manuscript
10.45 Mixing It
11.30-12.30am Music Restored: Utrecht 94, with Andreas Staier, fortepiano

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Venice for Pleasure, by J.G. Links 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Allison Pearson. With Anthony Howard of *The Times*, Simon Schama, Rodger Michell and Frances Cairncross
10.00-10.30 News; Dear Diary (PM only)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only): from *Word Alive* at Skegness
10.15-10.30 Children's Radio 4: When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit (LW only): Rosemary Leach reads Judith Kerr's book about a young Jewish girl's experience of growing up in Germany in the 1930s. Abridged by Elizabeth Bradbury (1/10)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Over the next four days Simon Parkes offers an Easter feast beginning with a lamb soup eaten to mark the end of Lent by Orthodox Greeks
11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Labour Exchange: Panel game with Rory McGrath, Tony Hawks and Stephen Frost 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Song for a Sanctuary, by Rukhsana Ahmed: There is a clash of culture when a woman and her daughter move into a women's refuge. With Jamila Massey and Linda Rooke (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Sarah Maguire considers the image of the poet in popular culture
4.45 Short Story: The Chapel Room, by Elizabeth Berridge. Read by Auriol Smith
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: Veronica's Handkerchief. See Choice
9.15 Letters from Another Time: List of three letters that might have been written over the past 25 years. Michael Goldfarb focuses on November 1985, New York City
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mr Olim, Ian Holm reads Ernest Raymond's novel (8/10) (r)
11.00-11.30 The Travellers' Sonic: In the last of the magazine series, Antoinette Fonia and Robert Elms take a look at the impact travellers have on the countries they visit (r)
11.30-12.00 Bolt: Horses Begin to Die. The second episode in the five-part dramatisation by John Fisher of the novel by Dick Francis. With Eric Allan and Sian Phillips (r)
12.00-12.40am News, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. LW: 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GWR: FM-94.9. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m; LW 198kHz. FM-93-96.5 (am). CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Money

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Backing for losers

BACKING corporate losers might not seem the best way to make money. But Baron Edmond de Rothschild, richest of the clan, is putting some of his pennies behind a fund called Restructured Capital Holdings, which will invest in American companies that are seeking protection from their creditors but have more than an even chance of becoming profitable again. The dollar's weakness is opportune to the fund, which has been launched with an initial capital of $100,000 under the chairmanship of de Rothschild right-hand man Georges Coulon Karlweiss. With cosmopolitan parsimony, the fund is incorporated in the Caymans but will be listed in Dublin.

VIVA BZW! The broker already has close ties with several broking firms across Europe, and is now focusing on Italy in a determined fashion. Paolo Gambarini joins BZW from Smith New Court to complete the BZW Italian team in London headed by (Italian) Alex Baldin and which includes (Italian) Fermo Marelli and (British) Nichola Dobinson. Next stop, Milan!

Name games

AS SNAPPY titles go, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and Chartered Institute of Management Accountants is a non-starter. The search is therefore on for something less parochial that reflects the ambition of ICA president Roger Lawson that the planned merger between the two accountancy institutes should create a body that is world class and worldwide. Stella Fearnley, the academic accountant who enlivens the ICA's council, has offered the less than helpful suggestion Combined Institute of Chartered Accountants South of Scotland, or CICASS for short. I am advised that the acronym should not be said too fast in polite company.

Cow-lateral

TREVOR MANUEL, South Africa's Industry Minister, has called on SA banks to "open their minds" about lending policies and suggests they think about "taking head of cattle, for example, rather than fixed property as collateral". Somehow, I don't think the idea of cattle-collecting banks will fly. Now, had Manuel suggested sheep — a banker could at least drive them over London Bridge....

Drastic measures

FROM sheep to goats. In Karachi, ten goats were paraded by brokers through the stock exchange before being sacrificed in a parking lot outside in an attempt to halt sliding share prices. Printable ideas on bucking up London prices welcomed.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Early liberalisers are showing the best performance, says **Andrew Tyrie**

Fast is best for Eastern bloc

The economic transition of a society is a thing to be accomplished slowly ... the sacrifices and losses of transition will be vastly greater if the pace is forced ..." Writing in the 1920s, Keynes had the Soviet Union's transition to centralised planning in mind. His advice was not taken then. Nor has it been taken in the 1990s by many countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in their bids to dismantle command economies. And the preliminary evidence of the past five years is that they were right not to take it: those who embarked quickest on market-oriented reform, particularly on macroeconomic stabilisation and market liberalisation, are now showing the best performance.

The European Bank's *Transition Report Update*, published today, shows substantial growth last year in the most vigorous reforming countries. Output in Central and Eastern Europe (excluding the CIS) grew at an average 3 per cent last year, up from 1 per cent in 1993. In Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Estonia it grew 4 to 5 per cent. For Poland, this was the third successive year of growth. Albania grew rapidly for the second successive year. Preliminary signs of recovery in the Czech Republic in the second half of 1993 were confirmed with 3 per cent growth in 1994, and Hungary, Latvia, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia experienced a return to growth. Inflation fell throughout Central and Eastern Europe, halving in the Czech and Slovak Republics and falling spectacularly in Romania, Croatia and FYR Macedonia.

In the CIS, further sharp falls in output were recorded but there was also good news: 1994 saw great progress in the control of inflation, with rapid declines in Russia, the Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Moldova.

Liberalisation and reform are moving forward in many areas. Inflation and foreign trade flows, which were previously fixed by bureaucrats in annual plans, are now in most East European and CIS countries heavily influenced by fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies. This is a consequence of comprehensive deregulation of prices and trade.

Crowds in Budapest's main shopping street indicate a return to growth

which was implemented in many countries as early as 1989-1991. The legacy of loose lending policies by central banks, combined with price liberalisation, initially led to high inflation in many countries but developments in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States have confirmed the experience from elsewhere that action to reduce inflation can be effective when it is sharp and determined.

In the trade field, too, the early liberalisers are seeing the biggest rewards. The Czech and Slovak republics, Poland and Hungary, South-Eastern Europe and the Baltic States have seen their trade with western market economies more than double in dollar terms since 1989, facilitated in most cases by competitive exchange rates and association agreements with the European Union.

Privatisation has advanced more unevenly. While most countries transferred ownership of smaller units to the private sector in the early transition years, most opted for a more gradual sell-off for large companies. Nevertheless, the past two to three years have seen the implementation of some spectacular comprehensive privatisation programmes, notably in the Czech Republic and Russia.

Progress on all these fronts is now easing the way for the even more difficult tasks of enterprise restructuring and financial sector reform. Here, gradualism is to be expected. Enterprise restructuring, for example, often carries with it great social costs and risks, since many large enterprises tend to be responsible for social welfare provision, particularly housing. The return to growth in Central and Eastern Europe, after the sharp falls in the early 1990s, will act as balm to the economic and social costs of these further reforms.

Tyrie: reformers lead way

The lion's share of growth in Central and Eastern Europe is coming from the private sector which, from very small beginnings, now accounts for more than 50 per cent of GDP in most of Central and Eastern Europe with the earliest reformers seeing the largest shares of private sector activity.

The official statistics show a much more mixed picture for the CIS, with further falls in output and much higher inflation than in Central and Eastern Europe. This is partly because reform there started later and has been pursued in a less committed manner and because, in many cases, the fiscal challenge has been greater.

In any case, it is not clear that the official statistics tell the whole story. There can be little doubt that official figures exaggerate the falls in output, especially in the CIS, where statistical systems remain dependent on reporting from large "old" companies. These are the very companies which had incentives to overstate activity under the old regime and which have contracted most rapidly, and where much new private sector activity goes unrecorded.

It is striking that, despite all the turbulence surrounding the collapse of the CIS and changes in government in Central and Eastern Europe, most countries are sticking to market-oriented reforms. Russia made enormous progress with privatisation in 1994. In the Ukraine the prospects for extensive reform have improved dramatically with a determined bid for macroeconomic stabilisation combined with a recent commitment to mass privatisation. Moldova and Kyrgyzstan have stuck to radical reform programmes in difficult circumstances and Uzbekistan is joining them.

Overall, the pace of reform throughout the region has not abated. If anything, it has accelerated in recent months. Despite widely varying economic, cultural and historical legacies there remains a striking commonality of reform agendas across Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS.

That gives room for optimism. The European Bank foresees a faster growth in Central and Eastern Europe in 1995 of 4 per cent, with continued low inflation, although not yet down to Western European levels. In the CIS, too, inflation is set to fall further in 1995. There is a good chance that the stable and in some cases growing output in recent months in the large CIS countries can be sustained in 1995.

It is too early to conclude definitively that Keynes' plea for gradualism was wrong but many of those who ignored his advice now have the evidence of five years on their side.

☐ *Andrew Tyrie is senior economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The views expressed are not necessarily the bank's*

Reform will not lead to substantial tax cuts

GILT-EDGED

THE UK Treasury is optimistic that reforms to the gilt-edged market will bring significant savings in government debt service costs. By bringing the Bank of England's gilt-issuing practices into line with those that central banks in other major industrial countries employ, the Treasury's hope is that gilts will become more user-friendly to international investors. The planned "open repurchase" market in gilts is designed to enhance their liquidity. This too, should increase the appeal of gilts for global fund managers. The hope is that gilt yields will end up lower as a consequence. The Government will then be able to issue stock on cheaper coupons than would otherwise have been needed to tempt investors.

Lower borrowing costs would be especially welcome to the Government as it seeks room, within the public deficit constraints, for substantial tax cuts. Ministers have estimated that it would only take a reduction of one basis point in gilt yields to bring a £25 million reduction in gilt debt service costs. It would not need many basis points improvement in the terms in which gilts are issued, according to this reckoning, to produce significant scope for tax cuts.

Unfortunately, these estimates of cost savings assume a drop in interest payments on the whole outstanding amount of gilts. In the end, the whole debt stock will reflect the benefit, but only as new issues refinance the old debt. In the first year after implementation of the reforms, the fall in debt service costs will affect only gilts issued in that year. The Treasury is presently projecting about £23 billion of gilt issuance in this financial year. The saving in debt service costs on this amount of gilts would be roughly a tenth of that assumed in ministers' statements. Unless the benefits from market reform were substantial, they would create a negligible offset to any tax cuts the Government wished to make.

It is implausible to suppose that the benefits will be all that great. The open repo market is unlikely to draw many new investors into gilts. Foreign holdings of gilts are already at the top end of the range for cross-border holdings of government bonds, suggesting that the traditional stock lending practices in the market have not been a major deterrent to foreign investors. Open repos will attract a range of sterling money market traders and will help the Bank of England in smoothing money market conditions but will not necessarily add much to the net demand for gilts. These participants will be naturally more interested in the assets created by lending against the collateral of gilts than in holding the gilts themselves. To that extent, the open repo plan is as much a reform of the money market as of the gilts market.

There will probably be more to be gained in lowering yields from the Treasury's presentation of a regular gilt auction calendar. It was a typical feature of last year's falling gilts market that prices would fall away sharply throughout the maturity-range in the two weeks prior to an auction announcement. Market-makers who were unsure at what maturity the auction would be pitched tended to protect themselves by marking prices down indiscriminately. Now that there is a fixed calendar of issues to be published at the start of each quarter, the market-makers will know where they stand long before they are required to bid at auction.

The volatility in gilt prices ahead of auctions should be reduced as a result. The risk premium incorporated in gilt yields to compensate for this volatility can subside. All the same, as an order of magnitude, it is doubtful whether the debt service cost will be reduced by more than 10 basis points on this account. In the year ahead, the cost saving may well turn out to be no more than a disappointing £25m, making no practical difference to the Government's PSBR sums.

STEPHEN LEWIS
The London Bond Broking Company

Longevity is a questionable achievement

After 22 years and more than 400 programmes, you might think it was time for a change. But no. Same old suspenseful music, same old black chair and same old Magnus Magnusson. And, for the umpteenth year running, I found myself wondering whether the annual rebirth of **Mastermind** (BBC 1) is the return of an old friend or more akin to the unwelcome guest who refuses to leave long after the party is over?

No, no — I've started the argument, so let me finish. The programme may be an institution, but long gone are the days when people would rush into work on Monday morning to discuss the humiliation of some unfortunate in their specialist subject or the unlikely profession of the latest champion.

Surely, it's time for *Mastermind* to do the decent thing — such as move to BBC 2, where it could be modestly revitalised in much the same way as *University Challenge*. An earlier slot, a new presenter (heresy, I know, but just think of the edge Jeremy Paxman could bring to the proceedings — "you passed [sneer], on a pretty unimpressive four which I almost can't be bothered to tell you the answers to") and the programme could again make an impressive contribution to the evening schedules.

But enough of fantasy. It was getting late and Magnusson was muttering something unintelligible. After 22 years and more than 400 programmes, I know the form. If it's unintelligible, it must be Aberystwyth. It was — first points to me.

Encouragingly, for those who worry about such things, there was absolutely no sign of the questions getting any easier. I sat in shaming silence through the life and career of Benjamin Franklin, ditto the life and operas of Vincenzo Bellini. I perked up a little during the life and poems of Philip Larkin, quietly wondering whether Magnusson would ask: "What did Larkin believe your mum and dad did to you?" Well, it was post-watershed. Helped by the specialist question setter, Andrew Motion, we got surprisingly close. As for women members of the House of Commons, that was easy. I answered Nancy Astor and Margaret Thatcher alternately and got two points.

Half-way through, Magnusson announced that actually — Shock, horror — there had been some changes. Previous contestants were being allowed to re-enter — providing they had new specialist subjects and had not been champions. Maddeningly though, he then didn't tell us which of our gallant four were appearing for the second time. In fact, it was last night's winner, the American telecommunications consultant from Cornwall, who first appeared in 1988, and the Bellini expert from Chester for whom, 21 years after his first appearance, it was second time unlucky.

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

As ever, it was the general knowledge round that separated the winner from the losers and me from most of the answers. True, there were a couple of pat-a-cake posers, such as "Prince Rainier of Monaco married which film star?" or "the Cox's Orange Pippin is a variety of which fruit?" But before you know it — or rather don't know it — it's back to "which King of Spain went into exile in 1931?" and total silence. "And at the end of that round, Matthew Bond, you have scored three points. You passed on 17 . . ."

Friday night saw the return of a series fast becoming an institution, **999** (BBC 1) the programme which generously spares no effort in graphically reminding us what a dangerous world it is out there. So graphically, that it tends to have a rather curious effect on my watching position. I'm fine at the beginning, sitting comfortably on my sofa as Michael Buerk reminds us that "all of tonight's rescues are true stories" and that "we have sometimes used actors and stuntmen", but slowly, as the dramas unfold, I sink lower and lower.

As the hospital consultant on board Guernsey's marine ambulance helpfully informed us that "once your lungs are full of water you will become unconscious within 20 seconds and within three minutes you will die", sitting on the floor suddenly became a good idea. A few minutes later, as Buerk was telling us about the hedge-trimming farmer who had needed 60 units of blood — "the piece of barbed wire finally came to rest half in and half out of his aorta" — lying on the floor seemed sensible. By the time it got to "next week, what to do if your car catches fire in the middle of a tiger reserve", I was in the recovery position, breathing deeply.

No longer is there even the distraction of what Buerk will wear between each horror story. For one linking shot, it would be the waxed jacket look, for another the big woolly jumper. And always, always a tie — presumably just in case of unscheduled tourniquets. But continuity have got hold of him for the new series — he wore the same modern anorak and chunky polo-neck throughout. Let's hope no one cuts themselves.

Finally, and not before time, it was time to say farewell to **The Upper Hand** (ITV), the romantic comedy that rather lost its *raison d'être* once it became clear that Charlie (Joe McGann) and Caroline (Diana Weston) would be able to bridge the social divide that separated male housekeeper from career woman. On Saturday night they finally made to the altar, but only after overcoming fire, rain and some outrageous over-acting from Honor Blackman. "Now let's work on that bust," said her exercise tape. "No point gilding the lily," replied Blackman. Somehow, you couldn't help but agree.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (78768)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (31683229)

9.05 Swat Kats. Animated adventures (r) (s) (2328300) **9.30 Why Don't You . . ?** A new series of ideas for young people at a loose end (s) (62364)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1724132) **10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days** (r). (Ceefax) (2231887)

10.30 Good Morning With Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine (s) (8091774)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6002497) **12.05 Pebble Mill** presented by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (2932126) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (69121300)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (40836) **1.30 Neighbours.** (Ceefax) (s) (86930958)

1.50 Going For Gold. General knowledge quiz with European contestants, presented by Henry Kelly (s) (86934774) **2.15 Knots Landing** (s) (2636768) **3.00 Today's Gourmet.** Jacques Pepin prepares a summer Sunday lunch (5497)

3.30 Cartoon (8454855) **3.45 Fiewel's American Tails** (r). (5114403) **4.10 Peter Pan and the Pirates** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (7374720) **4.30 The Movie Game.** Film and video quiz, introduced by John Barrowman. (Ceefax) (s) (3185942)

4.55 Newsround (4574958) **5.05 Blue Peter.** (Ceefax) (s) (4065687)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (826132)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (861)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (213)

7.00 That's Showbusiness. Showbiz quiz with Mike Smith. The guests are Gary Webster, Samantha Janus, Kevin Day and Sarah Greene. (Ceefax) (s) (7478)

7.30 Watchdog. Consumer investigations presented by Anne Robinson. (Ceefax) (s) (497)

Michael French and Patsy Palmer (8.00pm)

8.00 EastEnders. Over a drink at the Queen Vic, Bianca asks a favour of David. (Ceefax) (s) (6126)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Comedy starring Nicholas Lyndhurst as a Londoner with the ability to swap from the present to the war years. (Ceefax) (s) (1861)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (1229)

9.30 [redacted] **The Homecoming.** (Ceefax) (s) (950749). **Northern Ireland:** Gourmet Ireland 10.00 The Homecoming 11.40 Words From Jerusalem 11.55 Film '95 12.30am-2.05 Film: Heartless

11.05 Words From Jerusalem. The Easter story in Bible readings by Sir John Gielgud (s) (277107)

11.20 Film '95 With Barry Norman. Among the films reviewed are *Death and the Maiden* and *Muriel's Wedding*. (Ceefax) (s) (751377)

11.50 FILM: About Last Night (1986) starring Rob Lowe, Demi Moore and James Belushi. A drama about a young couple living together who have trouble with their emotional commitment to each other. Directed by Edward Zwick. (Ceefax) (680403)

1.40am Weather (8843275)

BBC2

6.20 Open University

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7833126)

8.15 The Adventures Of Skippy (r) (5599519) **8.40 Babar** (r) (s) (5196836)

9.05 The Kara Sea. A tour of one of Russia's military areas (9232346)

10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (9182313)

10.25 FILM: The Magic Of Lassie (1978) starring James Stewart, Mickey Rooney and Alice Faye. A remake of the 1943 *Lassie Come Home*, directed by Don Chaffey (37978213)

12.00 Seals Springbreak. A wildlife documentary (r) (s) (56316)

12.30 Working Lunch (82382)

1.00 Secret Life Of Toys (r) (s) (73678519)

1.15 Argentinian Grand Prix. Highlights (7371497)

2.10 FILM: Waltz Across Texas (1982) starring Anne Archer and Terry Jastrow. A drama about the clash between a female geologist and an oilman over a piece of land. Directed by Ernest Day. (Ceefax) (s). Includes News and weather at 3.00 (773855) **3.50 News** (Ceefax) and weather (2880381)

4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (126)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (710)

5.00 Esther. Studio discussion series (s) (8584)

5.30 Catchword with Paul Coia (s) (590)

6.00 FILM: It Met By Moonlight (1958, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde, Marius Goring and Cyril Cusack. Second World War drama directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger (98013590)

7.40 Clowns Of the Air. A wildlife documentary about the puffin (r). (Ceefax) (646519)

After the Kobe earthquake disaster (8.00pm)

8.00 [redacted] **Horizon: Cracks in the Crust.** (Ceefax) (s) (155774).

8.50 Lucinda Lambton's Alphabet of Britain. *I is for the Isle of Bute* (s) (104923)

9.00 Bottom. Comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (9671)

9.30 Game On. Sit-com. (Ceefax) (96478)

10.00 Ruling Passions — Sex, Race and Empire. Last in the series tracing the sexual history of British imperial rule. (Ceefax) (s) (57045)

10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. (Ceefax) (808478)

11.15 [redacted] **Sound on Film: Passover** (490768)

11.45 Close-Up. Roger Corman selects a scene from *Battleship Potemkin* (149010)

11.55 Weather (124836) **12.00 Women's Studies: Public Space, Public Work** (3571850)

12.25am-1.10 Design Principles. *Symmetry* (8245362)

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CHOICE

Alexander Solzhenitsyn returns home (BBC1, 9.30pm)

The Homecoming
BBC1, 9.30pm

In 1994 the Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn decided to end 20 years of exile and return to his native Russia. Film-maker Archie Baron was granted exclusive access to a journey which starts in Vermont, proceeds by air to Vladivostock and covers the remaining 5,777 miles to Moscow by train. In the United States, Solzhenitsyn was left alone. As soon as he sets foot in Russia he is assailed from all sides, generally to his displeasure. Press photographers mob him, gangsters try to hold up his train. To many he is a hero, the writer who fearlessly exposed Stalin's labour camps. Others accuse him of helping to destroy the Soviet Union. The film is a searching portrait both of the writer and the state of his nation.

Undercover Britain: Crackdown
Channel 4, 9.30pm

No wonder Graham Hall does not show his face to the camera. Last year, for this series, he went undercover to explore badger baiting. Now he enters even more dangerous territory, as he infiltrates a Midlands gang smuggling heroin into Britain. Tiny cameras, hidden in bags, clothing and car dashboards, allow us to follow his exploits. Since Hall stands to be knee-capped or worse if his cover is blown, his film is nail-biting stuff. His ultimate quarry is the gang's ring-leader, who calls himself the Big Man. Not many of us would fancy meeting him on a dark night but Hall bravely volunteers to be his courier on a trip to bring back drugs from Amsterdam. Tension rises as the Big Man suspects that Hall may not be kosher.

Horizon: Cracks in the Crust
BBC2, 8pm

The earthquakes which devastated Kobe in Japan in January and part of Los Angeles a year earlier had one disquieting feature in common. The experts completely failed to predict them. The programme suggests, moreover, that earthquakes may simply not be predictable. One seismologist admits: "We are not even sure what to look for." It seems the best to hope for is better protection for people in high-risk areas. More quakeproof buildings would help, for as someone wisely points out, it is not quakes which kill people but collapsing structures. The other approach is trying to project where the quake's impact is likely to be greatest, so that gas can be cut off and rescue services alerted within seconds of the first tremor.

Sound on Film: Passover
BBC2, 11.15pm

Four films on successive nights are the result of a project between the BBC and the Arts Council designed to demonstrate that music and images can be equal partners. All feature original scores, all are the result of close collaboration between a composer and a director. *Passover*, which has music by Paco Pena, the flamenco guitarist, and is directed by Jamil Dehlavi is a modern version of the Easter story set in Andalucia. From Last Supper to Crucifixion we follow the fate of a young Spaniard, taking in a bullfight and a gypsy blacksmith along the way. Despite adequate subtitles the narrative is not always easy to follow. But the energy of the piece drives it along and the Cordoba locations are a colourful bonus. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00 GMTV (86687)

9.25 Chain Letters (s) (2324584) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1786792)

10.00 NEW **Step by Step** American sitcom starring Patrick Duffy and Suzanne Somers (s) (96331)

10.30 This Morning Family magazine (12490836)

12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (5091381)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (6985126)

12.55 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (9076045) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (73464856) **1.55 Capital Woman.** Includes a report on the trauma of losing a parent in adolescence (s) (65573768)

2.25 A Country Practice (s) (58162671) **2.50 Blue Heelers** (1177300) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (Teletext) (4313403) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (4312774)

3.30 Rainbow (s) (8458671) **3.40 Tots TV** (r) (s) (2888923) **3.50 Scooby Doo** (s) (6081381) **4.15 Hurricanes** (r) (Teletext) (s) (7399039) **4.40 Terror Towers** (Teletext) (s) (7441403)

5.10 After 5 with Mary Nightingale (Teletext) (4986126)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (174316)

5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (723854)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (229)

6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (381)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers (s) (8774)

Colin Prockter and Johnny Briggs (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Mike tries to persuade Rodney to buy his Mercedes. (Teletext) (5651)

8.00 Lucky Numbers with Shane Richie (1294)

8.30 World In Action: Black and Blue. An investigation into claims of racism in the police force (Teletext) (s) (3229)

9.00 She's Out Dolly's robbery plans are set in motion. (Teletext) (s) (8861)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (71871)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (650561)

10.40 Sport In Question Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves are joined by Ellery Hanley, John Parrott and Sir Bobby Charlton (s) (645774)

11.40 The Equalizer with Edward Woodward (411294)

12.45am Endsleigh League Extra introduced by Gabriel Clarke (7328275)

1.30 Sport AM includes highlights of the second round of the World Motorcycle championships in Malaysia (1304850)

2.25 Quiz Night The Castell Mynach from Mid Glamorgan v The Blue Bell from Clywd (2104072)

2.55 FILM: The Silent Woman (1989) starring Marie-Christine Barrault. Thriller about the witness of a terrorist attack being hounded by the attacker (8110782)

4.20 Profile The Orb talk about their album *Pomme Fritz* (s) (58113817)

4.30 The Chrystal Rose Show (r) (s) (37670169)

4.55 The Time... the Place (r) (s) (2404904)

5.30 ITN Morning News (28633). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Spiff and Hercules. Cartoon (7689923)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (36687)

9.00 Spacecats (r) (58720)

9.30 California Dreams (6027497)

9.55 Gamesmaster (r) (s) (6108316)

10.25 Batman: The Joker's Last Laugh (4132816)

10.55 Tintin (r) (5275107)

11.20 Pugwall's Summer (r) (5919942)

11.50 Terrytoons (b/w) (8657855)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (s) (Teletext) (78584)

12.30pm Sesame Street (r)(36107)

1.30 Mr Men, followed by **Paddington, The Wombles** and **Further Tales of the Riverbank** (r) (93361)

2.00 Hypnosis — The Big Sleep. Andrew Norton looks at the evidence for and against hypnotism (r). (Teletext) (46872)

3.00 The Late Late Show (s) (6720)

4.00 Gardens without Borders: Italy (r) (s) (Teletext) (294)

4.30 Fifteen to One (s) (Teletext) (478)

5.00 The Golden Girls: We're Outta Here. A one-hour special sees the girls' house put up for sale as a practical joke (r) (Teletext) (5637)

6.00 The Cosby Show: And So, We Commence (r). (s) (Teletext) (378497)

6.55 Ski Mission Freestyle skiing in Canada. Without dialogue (581478)

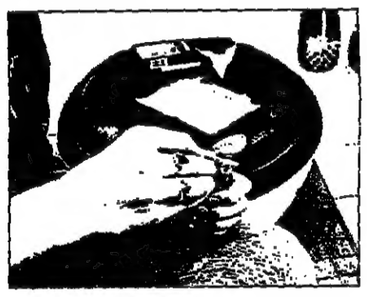
7.00 Channel 4 News and Weather (Teletext) (848126)

7.50 My Wagner. Pierre Boulez with his view of the composer (806584)

8.00 The Long-Legged Marching Eagle. Otherwise known as the secretary bird, the marching eagle is deceptively powerful (Teletext) (9636)

8.30 Only When I Laugh: When Did You Last See Your Father? (r) (Teletext) (1671)

9.00 Deadline. Continuing the story behind the news in Yorkshire Television's *Calendar* studios (s) (Teletext) (1039)



Graham Hall infiltrates a drugs gang (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Undercover Britain: Crackdown** (Teletext) (87774)

10.00 NYPD Blue: Large Mouth Bass. Lesniak interviews a handsome con man who is peddling a bogus beauty machine (s) (Teletext) (653126)

10.55 In a Time of Violence A drama set in South Africa about ordinary people caught in violent times and a fast-changing society (r). (s) (Teletext) (4905720)

12.25am My Dinner with the Devil Snake A partly-animated film by Jim Blashfield, set at a dinner party where guests tell stories (8901164)

12.40 The Wanderer Animation (3348966)

1.00 Brutal Kinship Jane Goodall investigates the way chimpanzees are used in medical research and the illegal trade in chimps taken from Africa to laboratories in the United States (r) (5573256)

1.55 FILM: Front Page Woman (1935, b/w). Comedy with Bette Davis as a reporter in competition with George Brent. Directed by Michael Curtiz (5529530)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (1786792) 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News (6091381) 1.55 A Country Practice (58162671) 2.20 Look and Cook (58154663) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (1177300) 3.25-3.30 Anglia News and Weather (4312774) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4986126) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (800890) 10.30 Anglia News (8806861) 10.40 The Magic and Mystery Show (467132) 12.10am England's Rugby World Cup Dream (3587411) 12.40 Endsleigh League Extra (7328904) 1.25 Remembrance of Love (1631211) 3.05 Sport AM (9224053) 4.00 The Time... the Place (6937091) 4.35 Yan Can Cook (3766214) 5.00 Wanted Dead or Alive (76817)

CENTRAL
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (1786792) 12.20pm-12.30 Central News and Weather (6091381) 1.55 A Country Practice (58162671) 2.20 Yan Can Cook (58154663) 2.50-3.20 Blockbusters (1177300) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (4986126) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (800890) 10.30-10.40 Central News and Weather (8806861) 11.40 World Championship Boxing (411294) 4.20am Jobfinder (7214890) 5.20 Julian Eye (7222608)

GRANADA
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (1786792) 12.20pm-12.30 Granada News (6091381) 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (3679045) 1.25 Home and Away (49928070) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (6823557) 2.45-3.20 Dining in France (4513774) 3.25-3.30 Granada News (4312774) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (4986126) 6.25-7.00 Granada Tonight (852590) 10.30 Granada News (8806861) 10.40 The Magic Show (467132) 12.10am Coach (5782071) 12.40 Endsleigh League Extra (7328275) 1.30 Sport AM (1304850) 3.25 Our Night (2104072) 2.55 The Silent Woman (5110782) 4.20 Jobfinder (8185169) 4.35 The Time... the Place (2404904)

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.55 Gardening Calendar (8657768) 2.20-3.20 Highway to Heaven (5386043) 5.10-5.40 Yan Can Cook (4986126) 6.20-7.00 HTV News (381) 11.40 Spotlight (8711128) 12.10am The Powers That Be (8782071) 4.20 Jobfinder (8185169)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 HTV Wales News and Weather (6091381) 1.55-2.20 Early Tale (8657768) 3.25-3.30 HTV Wales News (4312774) 6.20-7.00 Wales Tonight (381) 10.30-10.40 HTV Wales News and Weather (8806861) 11.40 Celtic Weave (611132)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (6091381) 1.55 A Country Practice (58162671) 2.20-3.20 Murder, She Wrote (4582107) 5.10 Home and Away (4986126) 5.37 Three Minutes - The Listings (904010) 5.40 ITN News: Weather (7151107) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (229) 6.30-7.00 Country Ways (381) 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (8806861) 10.40 The Trek (467132) 12.10am Coach (3587411) 12.40 Endsleigh League Extra (7328904) 1.25 Remembrance of Love (1631211) 3.05 Sport AM (9224053) 4.00 The Time... the Place (6937091) 4.35 Yan Can Cook (3766214) 5.00 Freescreen (76817)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 1.55 Gardeners' Diary (8657768) 2.25-3.25 The Young Doctors (58153923) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4986126) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (84687) 11.40 Donahue (411294) 4.20am Jobfinder (6165169)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (58162671) 2.20 Wish You Were Here...? (58154663) 2.50 Help Yourself (4931045) 2.55-3.20 Shortland Street (7403403) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (4986126) 5.55 Calendar (283855) 6.30-7.00 Enterprise 95 (381) 10.40 A Brush with Ashley (467132) 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H (421836) 12.05am Meditation for Holy Week (6008553) 1.20 It's Raining Money (450169) 2.55 The New Music (4022140) 3.50 The Chart Show (2139701) 4.45 Jobfinder (7240459)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (36687) 9.00 Spacecats (58720) 9.30 California Dreams (6027497) 9.55 Gamesmaster (6108316) 10.25 Batman (4132816) 10.55 The Adventures Of Tintin (5275107) 11.20 Pugwall's Summer (5919942) 11.50 Joe McDoakes. So You Want To Keep Your Hair (8657855) 12.00pm Right To Reply (78584) 12.30 Sesame Street (94010) 1.00 The Magic Roundabout (38774) 1.20 Crash Course (93391) 2.00 The Bedford Incident (4176852) 3.55 Gardens Without Borders: Italy (1821855) 4.30 Board Stupid (478) 5.00 5 Pump (5207958) 5.15 5 Pump (1340110) 5.30 Fitness To One (928) 6.00 Newyddion (842768) 6.15 Hero (715519) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (6316) 7.30 Sgwrs (88128) 8.30 Newyddion (1671) 9.00 Tara Nev (1039) 9.30 Auto Erotic (87774) 10.05 NYPD Blue (653126) 10.55 Babysnatcher (83945500)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am DJ Kat (1734274) 6.05 Mrs Pepperpot (1733045) 6.15 Dynamo Duck (1739010) 6.30 Dennis (47228) 7.00 Inspector Gadget (87381) 7.30 Orson and Olivia (75918) 8.00 Power Rangers (30215) 8.30 Bookshops (80756) 9.00 Oprah Winfey (42955) 10.00 Concentration (58381) 10.30 Card Sharks (14300) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (82836) 12.00 The Urban Peasant (80792) 12.30pm Anything But Love (38478) 1.00 St Elsewhere (22861) 2.00 Matlock (59010) 3.00 Oprah Winfrey (9409942) 3.50 DJ Kat (3174841) 3.55 Orson and Olivia (4363942) 4.30 Power Rangers (7126) 5.00 Deep Space Nine (4697) 6.00 Murphy Brown (1519) 6.30 Family Ties (2671) 7.00 Rescue (1836) 7.30 M*A*S*H (8855) 8.00 Hawkeye (70476) 9.00 Civil Wars (83942) 10.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (66229) 11.00 David Letterman (182739) 11.30 The Untouchables (754316) 12.45am Chances (4793804) 1.30 The New WKRP in Cincinnati (50430) 2.00-6.00 Hit Mix (2716503)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (5027045) 9.30 The Trial of O.J Simpson (4935519) 10.10 CBS 60 Minutes (7364590) 11.00 World News (80478) 1.30pm CBS News (62749) 2.30 Book Show (1132) 3.30 Worldwide Report (7749) 4.00 World News and Business (53584) 5.00 Live at Five (8749) 6.30 Talkback (4823) 7.30 O.J Simpson Trial (8105213) 11.30 CBS News (29132) 12.30am CBS News (82527) 1.30 Talkback Replay (21237) 2.30 The Book Show (14072) 3.30 CBS 60 Minutes (26817) 4.30 CBS News (72459) 5.30-6.00 ABC News (51985)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (2334300) 10.00 Bonanza: The Return (1993) (32294) 12.00 Where the River Runs Black (1986) (83213) 2.00pm Dreamchild (1985) (125774) 3.45 Hello, Dolly! (1969) (18741316) 6.10 Bonanza: The Return (1993) As 10am (64513923) 8.00 Used People (1992) (65590) 10.00 Hard to Kill (1990) (831300) 11.40 Indian Summer (1993) (592774) 1.20am Mystery Date (1991) (970508) 2.55 Eleven Days, Eleven Nights Part 2 (1988) (7640053) 4.20-6.00 Dreamchild (1985) As 2pm (521463)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
2.00pm Showcase (46861) 4.00 Ice Station Zebra (1968) (17725584) 6.25 It's All True (1993) (24866552) 8.00 Compulsion (1959) (87942) 10.00 The Lords of Discipline (1983) (805362) 11.45-2.00am Blanche (1971) (16083720)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Colt .45 (1950) (5085294) 7.15 Bad Lands (1939) (8943584) 8.30 Les Miserables (1988) (6463229) 9.25 Oliver Twist (1986) (8933300) 10.20 Tarzan and the Lost Safari (1957) (7109478) 11.45 Tarzan's Desert Mystery (1943) (13197774) 1.00pm The Blue Bird (1940) (1909652) 2.25 Just Around the Corner (1938) (477774) 4.00 Les Miserables (1935) As 8.30am (1857774) 4.55 Oliver Twist (1956) As 9.25am (6217632) 5.50 A Place for Annie (1994) (77703126) 7.30 UK Top Ten (1565) 8.00 For the Love of Aaron (1994) (63132) 10.00 Knight Moves (1993) (586213) 11.55 Afraid of the Dark (1991) (574403) 1.30am One False Move (1992) (338508) 3.15-5.00 L'ombre du Doute (1993) (62888343)

● For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Max Out (30497) 7.30 British Basketball (77590) 8.30 WLAF Magazine (67841) 9.30 Aerobics Oz Style (78671) 10.00 Big League (30720) 11.30 Windsurfing (73045) 12.00 Aerobics Oz Style (30923) 12.30pm Cricket Highlights (72215) 2.00 Football Special (29039) 4.00 World of Speed and Beauty (5300) 4.30 Stunt Team (1584) 5.00 WWF Mania (4565) 6.00 Soccer (995403) 8.15 Fish Tales (890958) 8.30 Windsurfing (6229) 7.00 Monday Night Football Wimbledon v Chelsea (12225497) 10.15 Soccer News (133836) 10.30 Cricket Highlights (84958) 12.00-2.00am Monday Night Football (34879)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Figure Skating (22403) 9.30 Marathon (29590) 10.30 Formula One (21720) 12.00 Indycar (56590) 1.00pm Football (80958) 3.00 Eurolun (8381) 3.30 Kerling (43126) 4.30 Indycar (17328) 5.30 Formula One (80836) 6.30 News (9497) 7.00 Speedworld (18229) 9.00 Football (82749) 10.30 Boxing (84132) 11.30 Golf (67316) 12.30-1.00am Eurosport News (84365)

SKY SOAP
9.00am Loving (7338126) 8.30 Peyton Place (7337497) 9.00 As the World Turns (4347958) 10.00 Guiding Light (3458107) 11.00-12.00 Another World (3461671)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Thailand (7331213) 12.30pm Zoo Life (4616213) 1.00 The Great Escape (3546987) 1.30 Cook Italian (4815584) 2.00 Australian Panorama (4295213) 2.30 Florence (4735854) 3.00 Pastel Paradise — Miami (1280316) 4.00 Guide (5084346) 4.30 Zoo Life (3189710) 5.00 Trailside (4286565) 5.30 Cook Italian (1938190) 6.00 Travels in Europe (3385313) 6.30 American Vacation (8191958) 7.30 Australian Panorama (8234869) 8.00 Around the World in 30 Minutes (4082739) 8.30 Guide (4294584) 9.00 Globetrotter (1192107) 9.30 American Vacation (2032213) 10.30 Trailside (7414590) 11.00 Florence (1197653) 11.30-12.00 Cruising (7898519)

Dorothy McGuire is in fear of her life (Bravo, 4.00pm)

TLC
9.00am The Joy of Painting (5755774) 9.30 Madeleine Cooks (2032213) 10.00 Running Peppers (2635126) 10.30 Frontiers (9356738) 11.00 Only Human (4965519) 11.45 Draw with Don (40173958) 12.00 Dotsons. Dotsons (8301818) 12.30pm Mirror Mirror (80616229) 12.50 The Balinese Dance (98782942) 1.00 Madeleine Cooks (4656132) 1.30 The Joy of Painting (20223300) 2.00 Jimmy's (3354294) 2.30 Park High (8666720) 3.00 How Does Your Garden Grow? (3356229) 3.30-4.00 Running Repairs (8678585)

UK GOLD
7.00am Give Us a Clue (4676519) 7.30 Neighbours (4582126) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (7751358) 8.30 EastEnders (7650300) 9.00 The Bill (3965792) 9.30 Flesh and Blood (6870565) 10.30 Juliet Bravo (42088869) 11.35 Going for Gold (85163229) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (4501836) 12.30pm Neighbours (2106587) 1.00 EastEnders (4668590) 1.30 The Bill (2107958) 2.00 Spring and Autumn (3266652) 2.30 My Wife Next Door (8675478) 3.00 Knots Landing (8115497) 4.00 Dallas (8290132) 5.00 Going for Gold (84518671) 5.25 XYZ (84504478) 5.50 Hi-De-Hi (2493403) 6.30 EastEnders (8763897) 7.00 The Two Ronnies (5690010) 7.55 My Wife Next Door (1416561) 8.30 Carry On Loving (9776497) 10.00 The Bill (3151395) 10.30 Top of the Pops (3772478) 11.10 Alas Smith and Jones (8026855) 11.50 Dr Who: Inferno (5456590) 12.20am FILM: Il Maestro (1989) (94264072) 1.50 Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (2741121) 2.25 Shopping

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Sesame Street (94769) 7.00 Teddy Ruxpin (56010) 7.30 Garfield (48045) 8.00 Eek the Cat (60132) 8.30 Degrassi Junior (69403) 9.00 Super Mario Brothers (97556) 9.30 Flash Gordon (120039) 10.00 Round the Twist (10720) 10.30 Beakman's World (83039) 11.00 Gravedale High (36594) 11.30 Gargoyles (37213) 12.00 He-Man (70519) 12.30pm The Bots Master (18855) 1.00 Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (55391) 1.30 Charlie Brown and Snoopy (51126) 2.00 Pugwall's Summer (34791) 2.30 Swan's Crossing (37209) 3.00 Casper (45311107) 3.15 Stunt Dawgs (976560) 3.45 Sonic (975561) 4.15 Bad Level 10! (6563300) 4.30-5.00 Catroma Dreams (3684)

NICKELODEON
7.00am NickAlive (5476720) 7.15 Pee-Wee's Playhouse (905497) 7.45 Rugrats (904768) 8.15 Doug (7103001) 8.45 NickAlive! (4233720) 9.00 Nick Jr (9559959) 12.00 Carmen Sandiego (35565) 12.30pm Muppet Show (50229) 1.00 Smoggies (20010) 1.30 Galaxy High (79300) 2.00 Chipmunks (2720) 2.30 Henry's Cat (5590) 3.00 Grimmy (1855) 3.30 Carmen Sandiego (1107) 4.00 Rude Dog (3942) 4.30 Rugrats (9126) 5.00 Clarissa (6300) 5.30 Odyssey (1738) 6.00 Doug (3519) 6.30-7.00 Are You Afraid of the Dark (4671)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm The Grand Family (5633087) 4.30 Lovejoy (8686584) 5.00 Search for Adventure (3267391) 6.00 American (5495764) 6.55 Beyond 2000 (5236687) 7.30 Future Quest (6897213) 8.00 The Astronomers (6148858) 9.00 The Nature of Things (6239519) 10.00 Wild Wheels (6136478) 11.00-12.00 Elite Fighting Forces (4570351)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Jack the Ripper (Quartette) (1958) (27163316) 2.00pm The Avengers (6224331) 3.00 Rat Patrol (3270855) 3.30 Hogan's Heroes (6778519) 4.00 FILM: The Spiral Staircase (Mute housemaid Dorothy McGuire is stalked by a serial killer) (2335564) 6.30 Drama Classics (5763590) 6.00 It's Gam Shanghai's Show (8767403) 6.30 Cannon (9503923) 7.30 The Invisible Man (8661039) 8.00 The Avengers (6133381) 9.00 The New Avengers (6226045) 10.00-12.00 FILM: The Detective (1968), with Frank Sinatra (6109936)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (5660861) 7.00 Living Magazine (2394923) 9.00 On the House (8942942) 9.30 Kate and Allie (1231294) 10.05 Go for It (1706584) 10.35 The Susan Powter Show (1805040) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (7544653) 12.00 Kilroy (3584958) 12.55pm Masterchef 1992 (6349652) 1.30 The New Mr and Mrs Show (1010561) 2.00 Agony Hour (5650774) 3.00 Makeover Magazine (7191768) 4.00 Inclusion (8003653) 4.30 Crossroads (7489324) 5.05 The Jokers Wild (1661381) 5.30 Take Six Cooks (1758910) 6.05 The Susan Powter Show (8209741) 6.30 Brookside (3601653) 7.05 Challenge Anneka (3356671) 8.00 The Young and the Restless (2335565) 8.55 The Sunrise Programme 9.00 FILM: Hot Lead, Cold Feet (33367651) 10.50 Sneak Suspects (5554972) 11.20 Brookside (7777762) 11.30-12.00 Inclusion UK (8865229)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm Dangerous Love (1978) 5.30 Tales of Adam (4836) 6.00 My Two Dads (1749) 6.30 Catchphrase (8229) 7.00 Bonanza: Hoss (7294) 7.30 Road to Avonlea (85476) 8.30 Home to Roost (2749) 9.00 Sisters (56536) 10.00 Trial: Pursuit (66723) 10.30 Danger House (54768) 11.00 Lou

WEEK AHEAD 39
LIGHT AT END OF EUROTUNNEL FOR INVESTORS

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 10 1995

GLOBAL WARMING 42
GRAHAM SEARJEANT CASTS A LIGHT ON MARKET FORCES

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Eastern doubts legality of electricity bill rebates

By Martin Waller

THE largest of the 12 regional electricity companies currently under pricing review by the industry regulator has taken legal advice and is convinced that the large rebates being demanded for customers by consumer groups could be illegal. Eastern Group told a private meeting of City analysts last week of its concern over whether a handover of more than £60 million of company money to its three million customers was possible.

John Devaney, the chief executive, is also uncertain whether such a demand from Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, would need the blessing of Eastern's own shareholders at a special meeting.

"There's a major question as to whether you can just take shareholders' funds and give them away," he said late last week, although he would not give details of the advice that had come back from the company's lawyers.

Professor Littlechild last month confirmed that he would be reviewing the amount the industry is allowed to charge for distribution, its core business, with the aim of forcing electricity prices down. The City is convinced that the pressure group and Opposition demands that forced the review are unlikely to be satisifed with much less than a £50-a-household cut in electricity bills, some of it to be funded by the £4 billion National Grid flotation.

Other regional companies have expressed their own private doubts whether they would legally be allowed to hand over such large amounts of cash to customers. If lawyers rule that special meetings of shareholders are necessary before this can be done, the process of reaching an acceptable review over power prices becomes substantially more difficult.

There would also be the danger that some groups of shareholders might vote for the cash rebates and others might not, making a nonsense of any blanket settlement between regulator and industry.

Cash rebates would hit the various companies disproportionately. Some, like Eastern, have large numbers of residential customers each of whom would have to be paid, while others have smaller customer bases and are more reliant on industrial demand.

"Financially, they aren't in a position to put their hands in their pockets as other companies are," said one sector analyst. "They are ambitious and highly geared, and they want to be even more highly geared in the future." Eastern is known to be interested in expanding by buying generating plant and gas fields. He described Mr Devaney's remarks on the legality of cash rebates as "an understandably hardline negotiating position".

The expectation within the industry is that the bare minimum that is needed to satisfy Professor Littlechild would be a tightening of the pricing regime from next spring to force price rises on distribution to 4 per cent below inflation, and another £30 or so per household from the proceeds of the Grid sale as well as £20 or more off bills as one-off rebates.

If companies and regulator are unable to reach agreement, the matter would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Profits fall, page 41

Wakeham faces bank bonus criticism

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

LORD WAKEHAM'S £50,000-a-year appointment as a non-executive director of NM Rothschild, the City merchant bank, is likely to attract further criticism after a weekend revelation that the bank received a £2 million performance bonus at the end of last year for its work on restructuring and privatising the coal industry.

The contract was awarded in 1991 when Lord Wakeham was still Energy Secretary. It was understood not to be the lowest tendered, but was deemed to offer the best overall value for money.

Work under the contract has included the celebrated report, concluding that the industry needed to slim to less than half its then size to achieve its best economically, as well as subsequent work on the sale of various parts. Rothschild has received £5.5 million in normal payment for the work, making a total payment of about £7.5 million.

The controversy over Lord Wakeham's transition has been intensified because the contract was still running at the time he was appointed to Rothschilds in January, six months after he left a different Cabinet role.

The sale of many individual parts of the monolithic former National Coal Board has been a complex one, even though most of the remaining pits eventually went to RJB Mining. It is not yet completed. For instance, privatisation of the successful pension fund management business CINman and its noted venture capital offshoot CINven are imminent.

Defenders of Rothschild and Lord Wakeham argue that the performance bonus is a normal feature of privatisation consultancy contracts. They also argue that the implied average fee of £150 an hour for those employed on the work was lower than normal for comparable private sector contracts.

The national Audit Office announced on April 5 that it would investigate the privatisation of coal, including Rothschild's contract. Sir John Bourn, comptroller and auditor general, said this would include "an examination of how advisers were appointed and their costs controlled". Rothschild has promised to co-operate fully.

Ford's £200m Puma project for Dagenham

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

FORD is poised to announce plans for a £200 million investment at its Dagenham plant to build a new diesel engine, codenamed Puma.

The Essex factory has beaten off a challenge from an alternative project to set up a Ford plant in Hungary to produce the new 2.5 litre car engine. Selection of Dagenham as global supplier for the new high-performance diesel is an important vote of confidence in Ford's British operations. Production of the Puma engine could help to turn Dagenham, already the company's leading European centre for diesel engines, into the company's worldwide centre for diesel expertise.

The decision to build the new engine is expected to be confirmed at a meeting of Ford's main board in Detroit today. Ford plans to make an announcement on April 19, when Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, and Judith Church, MP for Dagenham, are expected to visit the factory for a ceremony to mark completion of the plant's 28 millionth engine.

Details of the Puma programme have been kept under close wraps within the company. Executives declined to discuss it.

The new engine will be fitted to the newly relaunched Scorpio car, built in Germany, and may be introduced later to other car models. Previous Scorpio models used a diesel bought from VM, the Italian engine maker.

Versions of the new motor will also be fitted to Transit vans manufactured in Southampton, at Genk, in Belgium, and Poland, replacing the present 2.5 litre direct injection, which is also built at Dagenham.

Ford is already investing £90 million at Dagenham to increase the output of its 1.8 litre turbo diesel, used in Escort and Mondeo models, and the normally aspirated version used in the Fiesta small car, from 1,350 a day to 1,650 a day.

The decision to build the new engine in Britain will come less than a month after Ford confirmed that Dagenham is to produce a version of its Fiesta small car for sale by Mazda, its Japanese affiliate, in European markets.

Last year Ford assembled 135,509 Fiesta cars at Dagenham and 57,779 Fiesta and Courier vans. The Mazda version will lift volumes by another 25,000 cars a year. But Dagenham is also set to increase output of Fiesta by another 50,000 to 75,000 cars a year to replace part of the production from Ford's Valencia plant in Spain, which is halting Fiesta assembly so that it can make a new small car for southern Europe.

Ford bosses have been impressed by improvements in efficiency at Dagenham, which used to be regarded as a problem plant. Since 1990, productivity by the 6,500 employees has risen 38 per cent.

The decision to choose Dagenham in preference to Hungary reflects the conservative investment strategy persued by Ford in relation to Eastern Europe. Ford acquired a site in Poland to make car seat covers several years ago, but the plan was abandoned. It was only in January that Ford announced plans for its first assembly plant in Eastern Europe. The company is adapting the seat cover factory at Plonsk, north of Warsaw, to assemble Escort saloons and Transit vans from semi-knocked down kits freighted in from Western Europe.

Overt operation: Tatyana Paramonova, above, acting governor of Russia's central bank, said that Russia, which plans to use the successor organisation to the KGB to help safeguard shareholders' rights, has become the largest single recipient of EBRD loans

Cost-cuts and funding to dominate meeting

FUTURE funding and further cost-cutting possibly involving the relocation of its City headquarters, are set to dominate the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Colin Narbrough writes).

Finance ministers, central bankers and senior officials who form the board of governors are meeting today at the Barbican Centre, not the bank's much-criticised Broadgate offices. Their meeting was preceded at the weekend by presentations for the 2,600 people taking part in the EBRD gathering.

Governors are being asked to give first consideration to an increase in the EBRD's capital, which will dry up by 1997, if the present pace of lending is maintained. Aware of the hostility in the US Congress, and elsewhere, towards financing international institutions, the bank has stressed that no decision is needed until next year.

The EBRD started in 1991 with a capital of 10 billion ecu. After a slow start, it has so far approved loans worth 5.7 billion ecu for projects in its target economies. Commitments rose last year by 1.9 billion ecu to 4.4 billion ecu. BanE officials say the capital base will need to be doubled.

To continue to cut costs, some governments have argued that the 24 directors at the EBRD's headquarters are unnecessary and consume 12 per cent of the bank's budget.

Germany, keen to find new tenants for its Bonn ministries when the capital moves to Berlin, may seek to persuade the governors to let the EBRD leave London, in return for a big cut in rent. Bank officials have said that the headquarters could leave the City, if the savings were substantial.

EBRD chief tries to rescue Slovak nuclear project

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

JACQUES DE LAROSIERE, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), will today attempt to rescue a threatened DM1.45 billion nuclear power scheme in Slovakia, the bank's biggest project to date.

The plan to complete the four Soviet-designed VVER-420/23 pressurised water reactors at Mochovce in south-east Slovakia with a DM412.5 million loan from the EBRD and large-scale funding from European Union institutions was supposed to be a model project, demonstrating the bank's ability to foster economic improvement and enhance nuclear safety in its target economies.

But it has delivered M de Larosière a huge controversy, with non-nuclear Austria even threatening to quit the bank, in spite of his persistent attempts to steer the EBRD away from its controversial past as the "glistening bank" of Jacques Attali, the first president, who was ousted in 1993.

Sergej Kozlik, the Slovak Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, who is an EBRD governor, will discuss the financing of Mochovce with M de Larosière today, as the bank's two-day annual meeting opens in London.

A key decision on EBRD finance for Mochovce was postponed unexpectedly last month when Slovakia had second thoughts about the project after approval of a European Parliament resolution that called for any EU funding for the scheme to be frozen until full assurances were given about safety. The European Investment Bank also has serious doubts.

De Larosière: discussions

Slovakia has indicated that it could turn to a Czech-Russian alternative scheme for Mochovce which would be 30 per cent cheaper than the EBRD plan which foresees Electricité de France, the state-owned French power company, completing the reactors.

The EBRD scheme calls for a sharp increase in Slovak electricity prices and requires the shutdown of an older Soviet-designed nuclear plant at Bohunice, conditions which Slovakia finds onerous.

If Slovakia opts for completion by Skoa Praha, the Czech engineering group, with Russian assistance, the EBRD's hopes of becoming a key player in making the nuclear industry of the former Soviet bloc safe could be in jeopardy.

Design battle, page 11
High wire act, page 41
Fast is best, page 42

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 442

ACROSS
1 Lock of hair on forehead (3-4)
5 Dish (out) (4)
8 Set-piece fight (6)
9 Way out (6)
10 Emotional explosion (9)
12 Unenthusiastic, quietly impudent (4)
13 Full to capacity (3-6)
17 Pillage; dismiss (4)
18 Street-light support (8)
20 Hidden gunman (6)
21 One standing bail (6)
23 Crown, court document (4)
24 A difficulty (7)

DOWN
2 Impossible to see through (6)
3 Ignited (3)
4 Obvious; net (5)
5 At a giveaway price (4-5)
6 Period of instruction (6)
7 Sort of cross, ringed; football team (6)
11 Rose disease; accident site (5,4)
14 Insignificant; insufficient to (8)
15 Silas – (George Eliot) (6)
16 Bloodsucking African fly (6)
19 Tightwad (5)
22 Polish, impediment (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 441

ACROSS: 1 Cut no ice 5 Team 8 Hard tack 9 Kiss 11 Bloke 12 Lantern 13 Tipsy 15 Shrewd 18 Quickly 19 Harem 21 Oral 22 Splutter 23 Amen 24 Barefoot

DOWN: 1 Cohabit 2 Torso 3 On the books 4 Cackle 6 Evil eye 7 Mason 10 On the house 14 Primate 16 Demerit 17 Myopia 18 Quota 20 Ratio

TIMES PUBLICATIONS: The Times Guides: English Style & Usage (HB) £8.99, International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-95, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (HB) £16.99 European Parliament (June 94) (HB) £20. The Times Guide to the New British State (HB) £17.99. The Times Maps (Folded): The World 45" x 30" £5.99, Ireland 26" x 33" £3.99, British Isles 33" x 36" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times Illustrated World History (PB) £15.99. NEW The Times Illustrated History of the World (HB) £20. The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50. Book of Brainteasers £5.99. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques and order payable to Akom Ltd, 5 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24hrs). No credit cards.

Wembley cash call go-ahead

By Carl Mortished

WEMBLEY, the troubled company that owns London's world-famous stadium and conference centre, is expected to launch a rights issue as part of a financial reconstruction tomorrow.

The Bank of England's recent intervention in talks between Guinness Peat Group, a major holder of preference shares, and Charterhouse, adviser to Wembley, has succeeded in removing GPG's opposition to the restructuring proposals. The new deal is believed to increase the offer to preference shareholders from 50p to 60p, giving GPG a substantial capital gain.

This week's cash call is expected to raise £60 million. Lending banks will be asked to convert just under £40 million of their debt into equity. The new money and restructuring of the balance sheet should reduce Wembley's massive gearing of 300 per cent plus to a more manageable 50 per cent. Existing shareholders will suffer severe dilution of their holdings to less than 5 per cent.

The restructured Wembley will be led by Claes Hultman, a director of Eurotherm. Sir Brian Wolfson is to be demoted from chairman to deputy chairman.

Gas lights up Spanish oil share offer

By Carl Mortished

SPANIARDS have flocked to support the Government's Pta165 billion (£817 million) offer, which closes today, of shares in Repsol, the Spanish oil company. The success of the retail portion, which drew applications from 425,000 people, means that final pricing of the offer is likely to be close to the Pta3,595 upper limit announced early this month.

Repsol's aggressive marketing campaign has drawn advance orders from the public for shares worth Pta250 billion, more than the entire offer. The portion reserved for institutional investors and the international offering have also been oversubscribed.

Spaniards are being offered a stake in a company that is a blend of British Gas, BP and Calor. Repsol controls up to 60 per cent of the Spanish petrol retailing market and is the main supplier of bottled gas, the traditional cooking fuel. The group has a new trump card, with the purchase of a 45 per cent stake in Gas Natural, which controls 85 per cent of the growing Spanish market in piped gas.

High retail demand for Repsol shares early this month led the Government to increase the retail portion of the sale from 17 to 23 million shares. The Government is expected to add a further six million shares to the retail offer today in order to avoid disappointing private investors. This will leave it owning less than a quarter of the company.

Repsol appears to have beaten off the blues that threatened to undermine the 15 per cent sale and which have dogged the company's share price for the past year. To encourage private investors, the Government offered refunds of up to 10 per cent of the offer price if the shares stood at a discount after 12 months.